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Scuds kill 25 in Sanaa; mediation bids intensified

Combined agency dispatches

AT LEAST two Scud missiles slammed into the centre of Sanaa Wednesday killing at least 25 civilians as southern forces went on the offensive against rival northern troops in war-torn Yemen.

The Scuds, fired by southern forces as dawn broke over the northern capital and again in the afternoon, flattened houses and badly damaged surrounding buildings in the worst attacks on the city since the civil war erupted last week.

The victims included an entire family of officials said President Ali Abdullah Saleh, whose forces have been fighting those of his southern rival Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh, vowed that "this cowardly act will not go unpunished."

He told military commanders the Scud had killed or wounded 53 people, the official news agency SABA reported. Earlier it said that at least 25 were killed.

Southern forces have fired 19 Scud missiles at northern Yemen since fighting began, including 13 at the capital, according to the Sanaa authorities.

Southerners also launched a missile and artillery bombardment of Al Rahda, near the town of Taz, 300 kilometres south of here, a northern spokesman said.

Meanwhile, southern jets and artillery pounded northern forces based some 60 kilometres east of the strategic southern port city of Aden.

The heaviest fire was concentrated on the Zinjibar area, as well as Jiaar and Bakis, where the northern Al Amal Brigade is based.

Some 12,000 northern troops are stationed in Albyan province east of Aden, Western military experts said.

Correspondents said the southern forces still controlled a swathe of territory between Aden and Qatabah, 100 kilometres to the north.

In the past few days northern officials claimed their troops had reached the outskirts of Aden, but correspondents in the region said the city was calm.

The northern authorities offered a conditional ceasefire Wednesday to Mr. Beidh's forces.

Speaking after a meeting with President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo, Yemeni Foreign Minister Mohammad Bassandaw called on Mr. Beidh, Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) supporters to surrender, promising they would have a "fair trial."

The north would accept a ceasefire if the southerners agreed to recognise Mr. Saleh's government, respect the country's unity, and put all the armed forces under the government's control, he said.

The armies of the two countries never merged after the unification of conservative North Yemen with the Marxist South in May 1990.

Western experts put the strength of the northern army at 36,500 men, while the South has 28,500.

Arab League mediators reached Najran in southern Saudi Arabia en route to Sanaa Wednesday, in a new bid to end the conflict.

In Riyadh, Yemeni Planning Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani said Sanaa was willing to have Arab mediation, but rejected an Egyptian proposal for an intervention force.

Previously the Sanaa leadership rejected any Arab League involvement, describing the conflict as an "internal affair."

In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), sacked Yemeni Oil Minister Saleh Abu Bakr Ben Hussein was due to brief

(Continued on page 5)

Israel: Handover on May 18

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's cabinet on Wednesday unanimously approved the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord and a timetable for withdrawal that will take Israeli troops out of the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho by next Wednesday.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin also brought the agreement before the 120-seat Knesset for debate and approval.

Mr. Rabin has a one-seat majority in the parliament, and the measure was expected to pass later Wednesday after hours of debate.

The prime minister's speech to the Knesset was an attempt to silence criticism, emphasising how little Israel had actually surrendered.

He noted that sections of the accord singled out by the opposition, like the possible return of Palestinians who fled the territories after the 1967 Middle East war, were first raised in the opposition Likud Party's 1979 peace treaty with Egypt.

At the same time he did not deny the accord was a gamble.

"There is no agreement without compromises or concessions on both sides, if both are to adhere to it," Mr. Rabin said.

"There is no agreement that does not entail certain risks and such is the accord laid before the parliament."

Yossi Sarid, the environment minister who helped negotiate the self-rule agreement, said the 14-member cabinet decided in a special

two-hour session to withdraw troops from the autonomous regions and hand over power to the PLO by next Wednesday.

"The government approved the agreement unanimously. But what is important now is to pay attention to the timetable. The timetable is very defined," said Mr. Sarid.

He said that on Friday Israel would hand over to the Palestinians the southern part of the Gaza Strip and all of Jericho. By next Wednesday, authority for Gaza City and the northern part of the coastal strip would be transferred to the Palestinians, Mr. Sarid said.

"This means that from next Wednesday all of the responsibility

(Continued on page 5)

Buthelezi, Winnie in cabinet

PRETORIA (AP) — Nelson Mandela on Wednesday included his chief rival in the cabinet of South Africa's first post-apartheid government and gave his estranged wife a deputy minister post.

Zulu nationalist leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi became home affairs minister, while Winnie Mandela was named deputy minister of arts, culture, science and technology.

The 27-member cabinet — comprising 18 from Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), six from former President F.W. de Klerk's National Party (NP) and three from Mr. Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) — was sworn in at the Union Buildings and launched its first meeting. It is led by Mr. Mandela, the president, and deputy presidents De Klerk and Thabo Mbeki of the ANC.

Mr. Buthelezi was expected to join the cabinet after Inkatha won just over 10 per cent of the vote in last month's all-race election, entitling the party to three cabinet seats.

But the inclusion of Mrs. Mandela, even as a deputy minister, came as a surprise, especially after Mr. Mandela pointedly refused to acknowledge her presence during the first meeting of the new parliament Monday.

As head of the ANC women's league, Mrs. Mandela has wide support among women and militant youths who cheer her fiery rhetoric against the legacy of apartheid. Her appointment culminates a remarkable political comeback after her 1991 conviction on kidnapping charges, allegations of an extra-marital affair

and corruption, and her separation from her husband in 1992.

In accepting the home affairs portfolio, Mr. Buthelezi takes over the ministry that formerly oversaw his KwaZulu black homeland and other black territories created under apartheid to separate blacks and whites.

Those homelands have been disbanded under a new political system in which the country is divided into nine provinces with some federal powers. In an ironic twist, Mr. Buthelezi has pledged to work for greater federal powers for the provinces, which would reduce his authority as home affairs minister.

The ministry also handles the bureaucracy of government documents, such as passports, identity books and visas.



His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday meets with members of the Palestinian police force poised to enter the West Bank camped near the King Hussein Bridge

Jordan stands fully behind Palestinian rights — King

His Majesty meets police force at bridge

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday stressed that Jordan has no ambitions but to see the Palestinian people free on their national soil living the kind life which is their right.

Addressing Palestinian police forces that will deploy in the Israeli-occupied territories under the interim autonomy agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), King Hussein reiterated Jordan's support for the Palestinian people and the PLO.

"We are with you with all our capabilities... and we deal with your leadership, the PLO

leadership, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people according to the desire of this people and the Arab Nation since 1974," the King said.

"We will always support the right of the Palestinian people and you should know that you have a place in our hearts and conscience."

Urging the Palestinian policemen to convey to the Palestinian people living under occupation greetings from him and the Jordanian people, King Hussein expressed pride in the steadfastness of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and expressed his wishes that the

autonomy agreement will be the start for regaining the Palestinian people's national rights on their national soil.

He reassured policemen who will leave their families in Jordan that they will be taken good care of by saying that "we in Jordan stand for any one of you leaving his family for his new duties; his family will be our family and beloved ones, and you are our family and Jordan is your family with all its has."

The King wished the Palestinian forces good luck in carrying out their duties and urged them to rise to the level of the expectations of people in the occupied territories.

Second police unit enters Gaza cheered on by masses

Security force takes over Israel-evacuated base

RAFAH, occupied Gaza Strip (Agencies) — A contingent of 145 Palestinian policemen drove into the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, cheered on by thousands of Palestinians by the roadside.

They followed a first group of 160 policemen who crossed the border on Tuesday to a tumultuous reception, after 27 years of Israeli occupation.

The vanguard took over Israeli military buildings in Deir Al Balah, where they were besieged by celebrating Gazans during the day.

Palestinian police commander Nasr Youssef said the new contingent would be put up at former Israeli police barracks in Bureij, which Israeli forces had just handed over along with a police station on the edge of Nuseirat. Both towns are in the middle of Gaza.

As the news spread, hundreds of Palestinians poured onto the streets around the facilities, shouting pro-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) slogans, to mark the Israeli departure.

More than 20 uniformed Palestinian police received the keys to the buildings from the Israelis and hoisted the red, green, white and black flag after the star of David was

lowered, witnesses said.

On Tuesday night, Israeli security forces quit all the Deir Al Balah area a couple of hours before the first contingent arrived from abroad, following last Wednesday's signing of the autonomy agreement.

That sparked all-night festivities which rumbled on Wednesday in Deir Al Balah, where the 160 ex-soldiers from the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) were billeted in former Israeli administration buildings.

Under the May 4 autonomy agreement, 9,000 policemen will be deployed in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, of whom 7,000 will come from PLO bases in Arab countries.

Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid confirmed Wednesday that Palestinians would be in control of Gaza and Jericho in another week.

Thousands of joyous residents overran the police base to hug officers and clamber over the guard towers and other hated symbols of the occupation in Deir Al Balah, the first area to taste freedom under the PLO-Israel accord.

Police pleaded with the mob to leave the police headquarters compound for over an

hour, using a crackling loudspeaker to make pleas like, "please for the sake of Palestine, leave this place." They were largely ignored.

A Fatch man, newly emerged from hiding, entered the courtyard of the building and fired into the air with automatic rifles, briefly clearing the crowd who came back over the outside walls.

In Gaza City, Mr. Youssef said he did not consider weapons a problem, but they were no longer needed in the hands of fighters.

"They had the right to bear arms because they were under occupation, but now we will work in an organised manner for control," Mr. Youssef said.

Preparations were underway for a transfer to Palestinian police in Jericho, where a clash erupted with Israeli soldiers. The trouble started when soldiers moved to clear the town of reporters, dragging some out by their arms and legs.

Angry Palestinians booed, prompting a round of tear gas, tear gas and rubber bullets. Soldiers ordered local merchants to close, cursing them.

The army spokesman's office said it was checking on the reason for the action.

S. Africa judge sentences 6 whites to die

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A South African white judge sentenced six white rightists to death on Wednesday for murdering four black men at an illegal roadblock near Johannesburg. The six members of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) were condemned to hang in a supreme court ruling that came as South Africa entered the first full day of a new, black-led democratic era. The AWB is a paramilitary white supremacist group led by firebrand Eugene Terreblanche that wants a European-only homeland. The men were found guilty of four counts of murder each. In addition to the death penalty — executions are now in abeyance in South Africa — one received a 15-year jail term and the other five men got 18 years jail for attempted murder, assault and possession of unlicensed firearms. Judge Dirk Marais, passing judgment, said the sentences should act as a deterrent for those intent on taking the law into their own hands. Those sentenced to death were Petrus Matthews, Martinus van der Schyff, Frederick Badenhorst, Marius Visser, Karel Meiring and Andre Visser.

Jordan, PLO agree on mechanisms for economic accord

By Caroline Farraj and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — Jordanian and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials have agreed on a series of mechanisms to implement the economic agreement the Kingdom and the organisation signed in January, officials from both sides said Wednesday.

Ending an eight-hour meeting at the Prime Ministry where he led the Jordanian delegation to the talks, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Information Jawad Al Anani said: "We have found solutions that will convince the Jordanian and Palestinian people that we are marching towards achieving our interests away from disputes."

Ahmad Qouria, Dr. Anani's counterpart, agreed. Describing the talks as lengthy and detailed, Mr. Qouria said: "We have prepared mechanisms with full understanding to implement the Jordanian-Palestinian economic accord signed on Jan. 7."

He said the issues discussed dealt with banking and monetary issues, trade and customs. He announced that subcommittees were set up and they will commence their work on Saturday to follow up the implementation of the agreement.

Dr. Qouria said: "The first and basic reference that we resort to is this friendly and brotherly country, Jordan, with which we are linked with distinguished relations."

The officials' comments indicated that the two sides have managed to find common grounds after differences appeared in the wake of the signing of an economic accord between the PLO and Israel in Paris last month.

They also indicated that answers that the PLO provided to a series of questions that Jordan put to the organisation at the outset of the latest round of meetings on Tuesday were at least partly satisfactory to the Kingdom.

(Continued on page 5)

Sodomist and killer sentenced to death

By Rana Hussein Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The criminal court on Wednesday handed down the death sentence to Mohammad Momani, 58, after convicting him of murdering an eight-year-old boy in an incident that sent shockwaves through the Jordanian society two months ago.

The convict, known as Abu Ziad, stood impassive as Judge Youssef Hmoud announced the verdict and displayed no emotion as he was escorted out of the courtroom by security officers.

Relatives and friends of Abu Ziad's victim, Lo'ai Oraiqat, who were waiting outside the court sighed with relief upon hearing the verdict.

"Justice has prevailed," Lo'ai's father, Musa Oraiqat, told the Jordan Times.

"I was not going to accept any compromise and that is what I was waiting here for since the morning."

According to Nayef Khajail, a lawyer for the Oraiqat family, the main evidence in the case was a confession by Abu Ziad that he had lured Lo'ai, his neighbour's son, to an isolated area 30 kilometres from Zarqa, on the morning of March 12, and raped him.

The boy started bleeding and he threatened Abu Ziad to tell his father. In his confession to police, Abu Ziad said he tried to stop the bleeding but he failed, and he had no choice but to kill Lo'ai.

He told police he severed the head of the boy and other parts of his body by using a knife which he got rid off before returning to Zarqa.

Lo'ai's decomposing body was found dumped near a pile of stones in Al Qunouh area on March 15, three days after he was reported missing.

Other evidence used against Abu Ziad was his failure to report to work on the day of the incident. Defence witnesses in the case included several cousins and relatives, police officers and lawyers whom Abu Ziad resorted to for legal matters unrelated to the murder case.

The prosecutor had sought the maximum penalty.

A court-appointed lawyer represented Abu Ziad in the case and appealed for mercy for his client and asked that he be spared from the death penalty.

According to Mr. Khajail, the verdict will be reviewed by the court of cassation in 15 days.

PLO reformists gain strength ahead of self-rule

By Lamis K. Andoni

DELIBERATIONS to form a Palestinian authority have triggered an unprecedented internal power struggle as Palestinian officials and leaders seem determined to put an end to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's single-handed leadership prior to moving to Jericho and Gaza.

So far most PLO officials and leaders from the Israeli-occupied territories have declined to take part in the 25-member authority either in protest against the agreement on Palestinian autonomy signed in Cairo on May

4, or against Mr. Arafat's autocratic style, which, they fear, will dominate the new authority.

Prior to Mr. Arafat's departure for South Africa to attend the inauguration of President Nelson Mandela, the PLO leadership in Tunis challenged his attempt to singlehandedly appoint the Palestinian authority.

But, during his brief stay in South Africa, the PLO chairman defied the challenge by appointing by telephone four members from the occupied territories.

So far the four leaders from the occupied territories, who are said to have accepted membership in the Palesti-

nian authority, are Fatch head in Gaza Zakaria (Al Agha, Freih Abu Mdein (also a Gaza clan to Fatch), Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, and the head of the Palestinian side of the liaison with Israel, Jamil Al Tarifi.

By going over the heads of the PLO Executive Committee and prominent PLO leaders in the occupied territories, Mr. Arafat is apparently trying to force the reluctant leaders to follow — a tactic that he has perfected in the past.

But this time the situation is more complicated as many officials and leaders are wary about the implications of taking part in an authority in

charge of implementing an agreement that they either oppose or have strong reservations about.

Most, including his partners in the 30-month-old peace process, feel that they were marginalised in the actual negotiations and that Mr. Arafat is now trying to impose on them an agreement that they were not party to.

In a strongly-worded statement, the Palestine Democratic Union, FIDA, led by Yasser Abd Rabbo, charged that the pact enables Israel to practically maintain its control over the Gaza Strip and

(Continued on page 5)

Freedom House lauds Jordan media reforms

WASHINGTON (USIA) — A noted human rights organisation has identified Jordan as the only Arab country to make progress last year towards a free press.

Freedom House's 1994 report on worldwide press freedoms quoted a specialist who wrote, "for all its shortcomings, the Jordanian press... is the most level-headed and reliable in the Arab World."

Political reforms in Jordan represent real — albeit "insufficient" — change, Freedom House concluded. Its analysts gave the country a "low-level yet partly free press rating," noting that journalists there are still licensed by the state, imported publications are still

subject to censorship and that certain subjects remain taboo.

Freedom House, which has carried out an annual survey of press freedoms since 1979, examined the status of print and broadcast media in 186 countries and classified each as "free," "partly free," or "not free." Its 1994 report gave 36.6 per cent of the countries a "free press" rating.

The ratings were based on four criteria: The influence of laws and rules governing the media; the extent of political pressures and controls on media content; the extent of economic influences from government or elsewhere; and cases of overt repressive

actions, ranging from self-censorship to the killing of journalists.

Based on those criteria, "Israel barely retains its free press status," Freedom House said, noting specifically the military censorship associated with Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands.

Nevertheless, Israel was the only country in the Middle East to earn the "free press" rating. Throughout the region, strict government control of the media is common and "change comes slowly," Freedom House reported.

Lebanon, which once boasted, "the freest media in the Middle East," moved

into Freedom House's "partly free" column. Concerns cited by the organisation included the government's sporadic banning of certain newspapers and the fact that "a single large investor controls the public portion of the state television network."

Kuwait joined the former Soviet republics of Belarus and Georgia as countries that were reclassified from "partly free to not free."

Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Oman, Qatar, Sudan, Syria and the United Arab Emirates all earned a "not free" press rating from Freedom House: the media in Bahrain, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen were classified as "partly free."

Details of transfer get under way in Jericho

JERICHO, occupied West Bank (AP) — Leaving through a stack of folders, an Israeli health official laid out for a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegation what was in store once they took over Jericho hospital from the Israeli military government.

"You've got clean linens for today," Yossi Schachter, head of the military government's health services, said Tuesday during a tour of the hospital.

Mr. Schachter said Israel would pay the employees' wages through May and leave behind a three-month supply of medicine.

Such briefings took place at some 20 sites Tuesday in Jericho, the future seat of the PLO government, as the nitty-gritty process of transferring power began in earnest.

The 10-member PLO delegation visited schools, a post office, the income tax department and even archaeological sites, all run now by Israel but soon to come under Palestinian control.

The formal transfer of power will not take place until the first contingent of Palestinian

police arrives in town sometime later this week, said Brigadier General Gadi Zohar, head of the West Bank military government.

Still, Palestinians were quick to hoist their flag over several of the buildings Tuesday.

A bed-sheet-sized flag was draped over the entrance of Tel Jericho, an archaeological site containing remains of 23 cities with the earliest dating back 10,000 years.

Five tourist buses had Palestinian flags pinned under the front windshield, courtesy of the local restaurant owner.

"We came to see the archaeological digs, but what is going on here today is just as fascinating," said Gert Thaeis, 67, a Christian pilgrim from the small town of Breidenbach, in southern Germany.

As he spoke, Major General Ilan Biran, head of the army's central command, chatted with Palestinians at the entrance to the archaeological dig after taking a last look from a hill overlooking the city.

Palestinians pressed Gen. Biran for word on when the Palestinian police, waiting

since Sunday on the Jordanian side of the King Hussein bridge, would finally be allowed to cross.

"We are ready to let them pass any moment. You have to ask (PLO leader Yasser) Arafat about the delay," Gen. Biran told the crowd.

He said that under the autonomy accord, Mr. Arafat would first have to name his 24-member national council before the police could be deployed.

A sensitive site during the tour was the Peace Upon Israel synagogue which is to be run by the Palestinians while Jewish worshippers will be given prayer rights.

The two-storey building on the outskirts of town had become a rallying site for Jewish settlers making a last-ditch stand against implementing the autonomy accord.

When PLO official Naim Abu Al Homous pulled up Tuesday to inspect the synagogue, about a dozen Jewish seminary students and right-wing legislator Hanan Porat, a patron of the settler movement, were inside.

Mr. Porat came out and complained that he had not been notified.

"We find it unacceptable that you coordinate with the Palestinian administration before you coordinate with us," Mr. Porat told an Israeli general who was briefing Mr. Abu Al Homous.

"In the meantime, we are not transferring anything to the Palestinians," said the Israeli officer, who did not identify himself. "We are just showing them the seminary."

Pointing to Mr. Abu Al Homous, Ms. Porat said, "who is this man?"

Mr. Abu Al Homous introduced himself and added: "You are a member of parliament, right?"

"Member of Parliament Hanan Porat, a good neighbour," Mr. Porat responded before the tour began.

Mr. Abu Al Homous said later the Palestinian authority would permit Jews to pray at the synagogue.

"The Palestinian people respect all kinds of religions," he said. "This is our way, and we will keep it."

Israel says 3,000 Palestinians returned

CAIRO (R) — Israel has allowed around 3,000 Palestinians to return to the Gaza Strip and West Bank in the last seven months under a family reunification scheme agreed last October, an Israeli said Tuesday.

Yossi Hadass, leading an Israeli delegation to multinational talks on Middle East refugees, said the returning Palestinians were part of an Israeli commitment to allow up to 6,000 refugees to return annually.

"From October 1993 to the end of April Israel granted 1,993 applications, covering (the return of) around 3,000 people," Mr. Hadass told Reuters after the first day of talks.

The three-day Cairo conference, chaired by Canada, is the fifth session to be held under the U.S.-Russian sponsored Middle East peace conference.

At the last meeting in Tunis in October 1993 Israel and the Palestinians agreed on procedures for reunification of families. Wider talks on the return of refugees displaced since Israel's creation in 1948 will be held separately.

"A just solution for the Palestinian refugee problem cannot be postponed indefinitely or swept under the carpet," Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said at the start of the conference.

"The continued support of the international community is paramount and imperative for providing hope for the future."

Chief Palestinian delegate Elias Sanbar, a Paris-based history professor, said after Tuesday's talks Israel had not provided him with a list of names of the returning refugees, "but we have no reason to doubt

their figures."

He said he expected a number of financial pledges to be made at the talks, also attended by representatives from Europe, Japan and the wealthy Gulf Arab states.

"We expect certain projects to be announced, some financial pledges to be made," Mr. Sanbar said.

"But we put a condition... that any project to help the refugees should not be aimed at settling them in their host countries," he said.

According to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord signed in Cairo last week, the global issue of Palestinian refugees from the 1948 war is to be discussed in bilateral negotiations on the permanent status of the occupied territories two years after the signing.

Israel and the Palestinians are also due to discuss, together with Egyptian and Jordanian teams, the return of people displaced after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

UNRWA, the United Nations body established to help the 1948 refugees, lists around \$2.4 million Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

This week's talks focus mainly on programmes and projects for immediate improvement of refugees' living conditions. They include sessions on health, child welfare and job creation.

Michel de Salaberry of the Canadian delegation said Norway presented a detailed survey on Tuesday of living conditions in the Gaza Strip and West Bank refugee camps, and announced plans for a similar study in Jordan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli cult siege ends peacefully

TEL AVIV (R) — Armed followers of a charismatic Israeli rabbi surrendered peacefully early on Wednesday to police who had laid siege to their fortified compound near Tel Aviv, police said. Early into the 24-hour standoff, police shot dead an army deserter inside the building in the working class town of Yehud after he opened fire on a police helicopter. About 800 police, including a crack anti-terrorist unit, had besieged the house since Tuesday morning after arresting Rabbi Uzi Meshulam at a nearby location. Rabbi Meshulam's group of Jews of Yemeni descent demand a state inquiry into the alleged disappearance of Jewish children who immigrated to Israel from Yemen 45 years ago. Police said 36 people holed up in the building surrendered after lengthy negotiations with police and were arrested. An undisclosed number of women and children were allowed to remain inside. National police chief Assaf Hefetz told a news conference that eight M-16 assault rifles, three Uzi submachineguns, seven handguns and a large quantity of ammunition were found in the house. Another 30 of Rabbi Meshulam's followers were detained on Tuesday at roadblocks and houses near the compound. The rabbi and his followers turned the house in Yehud into a fortress six weeks ago and swarmed around the neighbourhood with automatic weapons. The rabbi and his followers, believed to number several hundreds, contend that immigrant children from Yemen were stolen from their parents and sold to childless Jewish couples of European descent in the 1950s. Officials have disputed the claim. At least one member of parliament has demanded an official inquiry.

Iraq to close its mission in Australia

CANBERRA (AFP) — The Iraqi government has told Canberra it plans to close its diplomatic mission here to cut costs, Australian officials said Wednesday. A number of other overseas Iraqi offices have been or will be closed, they said. Iraqi Charge d'Affaires Kamal Issa is expected to leave soon along with other members of his staff, although the chancery building and head of mission residence are being retained for the present. Officials here say other second-tier Iraqi missions, in South Korea, Argentina and Hungary, are also expected to close for financial reasons. Some first-tier Iraqi missions have been closed within the last six months. No Iraqi spokesperson was immediately available for comment.

Moroccan prince donates \$6m for Princeton Institute

PRINCETON (AP) — A Moroccan prince donated \$6 million to Princeton University on Tuesday to set up an institute for studying the Islamic World stretching from Northern Africa to Central Asia. The Mohammed VI Institute for the Trans-Regional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia will explore Islamic cultures and the challenges posed by western democracies and global capitalism, university officials said. Prince Moulay Hicham Benabdallah, who graduated from Princeton in 1985 with a bachelor's degree in politics, made the gift and named the institute to honour his grandfather, the ruler who led Morocco to independence from France in 1956. "It is imperative for the sake of my countrymen, and of all the peoples of these regions, that our future exchanges with Western nations be marked by the sort of profound respect that can lead to true cooperation and real peace," the prince said in a prepared release. The institute will be part of Princeton's Centre of International Studies, which is in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. The prince's gift will endow positions for a visiting professorship, a visiting fellow and a permanent director of the institute. It will sponsor conferences, seminars and instruction. The institute's area of study covers a diverse group of regions and peoples stretching from Morocco in the west and Sudan in the south to Pakistan in the east and the Caucasus in the north. Arabic is the predominant language and Islam the religion of the area. But Turkish, Persian, Hebrew, Urdu and other languages are also spoken, and Christianity, Judaism and religions considered pagan or animistic also practised.

Egypt bars distribution of English weekly

CAIRO (AP) — Information Ministry censors have banned distribution of the Egyptian edition of the Middle East Times for the second time in three weeks, the newspaper said in a statement. The English-language weekly is written and edited in Egypt but printed in Greece. It generally appears on Egyptian newstands starting Monday. The move comes amid a series of government actions limiting press coverage. Foreign reporters have frequently been barred from the trials of extremists accused of anti-government attacks. In recent weeks, Western reporters and photographers were roughed up by Egyptian security forces while covering demonstrations. Late last month, a reporter for the opposition newspaper Al Shaab was ordered to jail by a military court for reports for opposition papers face libel or slander charges for articles on corruption. Nicolas Pelham, who edits the Egyptian Edition, said: "We've been told there is a chance the paper might be barred from the country indefinitely." The paper has been published for 11 years. He said he did not believe the action was because the paper is owned by supporters of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church. The Washington Times in Washington, D.C., is a "sister paper," he said. The Middle East Times also plans a Lebanon edition. There was no answer at the ministry's censorship office. The statement by the Middle East Times said Egyptian censors objected to three articles in this week's edition concerning Muslim militants, domestic violence and security surrounding a recent international telecommunications conference in Cairo. It added that the paper was particularly angered by the action because after four issues were banned last year, the Middle East Times "agreed with the censors to show them potentially sensitive articles before these were published." It added: "It was made known to us, unofficially, that we must not criticise the president or the state military in a way likely to be 'harmful' to the national interest." The Egyptian edition has a circulation of about 7,000 in the region, with the bulk of the copies sold in Cairo, Mr. Pelham said.

Wounded troops voice anger at Yemen war

SANAA (R) — The wounded of Yemen's civil war brooded Tuesday over what they called futile political rivalries pitting Yemeni against Yemeni.

Captive southerners lay beside northerners in wards in the military hospital in the Yemen capital of Sanaa in the north. Most were aged from 18 to 50, but the youngest was just 14.

"Had we directed our fire against Israel we would have achieved something," said Second Lieutenant Abdul Ali Abdullah of the southern army which has been fighting northern foes in a week-old war.

"But victor and vanquished in this battle will have a black page in history."

"These are regrettable events," said Abed-Rabbu Mohammad Saleh, a 28-year-old soldier from the north's

eighth brigade.

"The two sides are to blame for it."

The southerners, perhaps understandably, showed no sign of hostility to their captors despite serious wounds, including burns, suffered in the fighting racking this impoverished Arabian Peninsula state of 13 million people.

The former North and South Yemen stationed some troops in each other's territory under a 1990 merger that now lies in shreds. The move was aimed at eventual military merger but integration was never achieved.

Zayed Abdullah Ghazi from a southern armoured brigade, suffering gunshot fractures, said his unit had lived in peace for four years with northern troops after the merger.

"Our officers fled and let us down. Northerners and southern men were brothers until the hostilities started," he said.

Both groups of wounded spoke in support of the union.

But several northerners in interviews blamed the southern Yemeni authorities for the fighting and accused some southern troops of bestial behaviour on the battlefield.

"We were living like brothers with the (southern) Basubaid Brigade. But they started the firing," said northern soldier Hussein Ali Ghobar.

"They acted like beasts," said Abdullah Said Nagui, a northerner of the Amaliga Brigade.

"When they captured some of our colleagues they brought them in cars and left them

outside their camp after removing their penises. Before the hostilities we were living like brothers. But they showed their real face during these hostilities."

The youngest of the wounded, Najib Murshid, 14, said he was recruited by a southern brigade and "because I'm an orphan and jobless I accepted their offer a month ago."

Najib, suffering a broken leg and arm and wounds to his abdomen, said others of his age had also joined up.

"All of us have a feeling of resentment over the fighting," said First Lieutenant Abdullah Ahmad Hussein from a southern brigade. "When we met each other in the hospital, we as soldiers apologised to each other, for we never wanted this fighting."

Dostum sees war intensifying in north

MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan (R) — Afghan warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum said on Tuesday commanders loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani wanted to intensify fighting in the north and he had no option but to fight back.

General Dostum, who together with Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar leads an alliance fighting to topple Mr. Rabbani, said in an interview the president was "fighting against the nation."

"The attitude of some of President Rabbani's commanders means that fighting might escalate in the north of the country," he said at a military base west of Mazar-e-Sharif town.

He did not elaborate but his remarks seemed to refer to recent attacks by forces loyal to Mr. Rabbani on northern towns controlled by Gen. Dostum and Mr. Hekmatyar.

Mr. Rabbani's administration said on Monday its forces had captured the northern town of Baghlan on Sunday after two days of heavy fighting. But a spokesman for Mr. Hekmatyar denied the report and said the town was still held by Hezb forces.

Gen. Dostum said he welcomed any attempt to bring peace to war-devastated Afghanistan and particularly that of special U.N. peace envoy former Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri who visited the region last month.

Gen. Dostum, who controls the strongest military force in northern Afghanistan, said his Jumbish-e-Milli party was an independent and strong organisation.

"We hold considerable areas and forces and nobody can contradict nor refute our capability," said the former com-

munist general who helped Mujahedeen guerrillas take power two years ago after 14 years of civil war when he switched over to them to topple former Soviet-backed President Najibullah.

Gen. Dostum criticised Mr. Rabbani for insisting to remain in power as president and said: "He is fighting against the nation."

While favouring the U.N. peace mission, Gen. Dostum said his party had rejected a peace move by Justice Minister Jalaluddin Haqqani, who has been trying to reach some sort of a settlement.

Mr. Haqqani had completely ignored the Jumbish-e-Milli party, he said. "There has not been any sort of consultation with us."

Gen. Dostum said Mr. Mestiri had asked both sides to stop air strikes against each other when he visited Afghanistan last month but that he told the envoy that Mr. Rabbani would not do that.

"Yesterday Rabbani's side bombed the Mazar-e-Sharif airport," he said of two raids by presidency-controlled aircraft. "There is no other option but to continue fighting as President Rabbani is not in favour of bringing it to an end."

He denied Mr. Rabbani's charge that his war effort was backed by neighbouring Uzbekistan and said income from enterprises in Mazar-e-Sharif such as fertiliser and cement factories was enough to run his administration.

Gen. Dostum said he had contracts with private companies in Russia and Belarus to supply fuel for his aircraft. "When we buy 100 tonnes of fuel, we keep 50 tonnes for ourselves and the rest we sell to civilians."

Prosecutor drops charges against 2 in Sidon trial

SIDON (AP) — The prosecutor in the trial of two Palestinians accused of the 1984 assassination of a Libyan dissident in Berlin has dropped the charge and asked the court for their release.

The request by Prosecutor Hatem Madhi could clear the way for the extradition of one of the accused, Yasser Chreidi, to stand trial in Germany for the murder of Libyan Mustafa Ashek and the 1986 Berlin discotheque bombing.

Mr. Madhi told the criminal court Tuesday that the 1984 killing of Ashek in West Berlin had political motives, and thus was covered by a 1991 general amnesty for political crimes committed during Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war.

"Therefore, the prosecution asks for the release of the accused," Mr. Madhi told the three-man tribunal convened in the southern provincial capital of Sidon.

Presiding Judge Mohammad Moallem scheduled a June 14 session to rule in the matter.

"Long live justice," shouted the wife, mother and uncle of Mr. Chreidi simultaneously.

The three were attending the court.

"I had nothing to do with what happened in Germany," a smiling Chreidi told the judge.

"I insist on exoneration," replied Ghassan Ayoub, the other defendant, to a question by Mr. Moallem.

Mr. Chreidi, 34, and Mr.


Ayoub, 38, have been held in Lebanon since they returned from communist East Germany in 1989 following the collapse of the Berlin Wall. Both have denied killing Ashek by a muffled pistol on a West Berlin street March 29, 1984.

The duo are suspected followers of Palestinian extremist mastermind Abu Nidal, although both denied that in court. Abu Nidal tops the wanted list in the west and in several Arab countries for attacks that killed scores of people.

Mr. Chreidi, who worked as a driver at the Libyan diplomatic mission in communist East Berlin, was also implicated in the April 5, 1986, bombing of the La Belle discotheque in West Berlin, which was frequented by American servicemen. Two off-duty U.S. officers and a Turkish woman were killed and about 230 people wounded.

Mr. Chreidi also denied involvement in the bombing, which prompted then-President Ronald Reagan to order U.S. air raids against Libya.

Germany has demanded Mr. Chreidi's extradition in both cases. In Lebanon he stood trial for the Ashek killing. Lebanon and Germany have no extradition treaty and it is up to the Lebanese government to decide whether to extradite.



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PRAYER TIMES

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16:12	Asr
19:27	Maghrib
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CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifish, Tel. 819740

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Church of the Ascension Tel. 6740

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Home News

Dentists to hold elections JDA members to choose from 2 men, 1 woman for president

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Dentists Association (JDA) will hold its elections on Friday with three candidates competing for the presidency and 17 for JDA board membership.

Sa'id Abu Mayzer, Ahmad Rashdan and Huda Fakhouri will be running for president. If elected, Dr. Fakhouri will become the first ever woman to lead the Jordanian dentists association.

Dr. Fakhouri, who has been in practice since 1969, told the Jordan Times that it is the right time for her to run for elections.

"I have been a member in the union for more than 25 years, and I feel that I can run the union efficiently based on my legislative and rules experiences in this

field," Dr. Fakhouri said.

"Women have made it to Parliament, ministries, the Senate and other important positions, and I believe it is time for a woman to represent her own sex in a union so that other women would think of running for elections in the future," she added.

Dr. Fakhouri said she plans on improving and developing laws and legislation in the union as well as other important issues.

Dr. Rashdan, a graduate of the University of Cairo, said his campaign will focus on bolstering the association's development, and qualitative transformation of the previous association's programmes.

He said his campaign is posing questions on what could be done to improve the association, and responding to those very questions. Dr. Abu Mayzer, who

graduated from Damascus University in 1978, said his campaign will concentrate on improving the association and professionalism levels.

Some rules and regulations should be amended in order to the JDA to absorb the increasing number of dentists.

Running for board seats are: Ahmad F. Ismail, Azem Qadumi, Nasrallah Nasrallah, Faouzi Petro, Salem Karadsh, Haikel Haikel, Haytham Najj, Khamir Kaded, Abdullah Khattib, Yahya Kamal, Mahmoud Sharaa, Mohammad Ismail, Hisham Karadsh, George Haddad, Hussein Laffi, Issam Zareini and Mazen Safadi.

About 800 association members of the 2,300 registered in the JDA will elect the president and the eight-board members Friday for a two-year term.

Geologists urge end to sanctions against Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Geologists Association (JGA) Wednesday sent a message to the president of the U.N. Security Council urging him to ensure that the council end the sanctions imposed on Iraq for its occupation of Kuwait in 1990.

The blockade imposed by the "civilised" nations, the U.S., the United Kingdom, France and other NATO members, on Iraq, is causing the destruction of a culture and hindering education and scientific development in the "land of Mesopotamia, the cradle of civilisation," said the message, a copy of which was sent to the Jordan Times.

The Security Council plans a review in mid-May of the oil ban imposed on Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait, and

according to an Associated Press report Monday, council members are divided on whether to ease the sanctions. Since August of 1990, Iraq has been deprived of all kinds of international scientific and educational materials and has been completely isolated from the outside world, said the JGA statement.

"Your position of being silent is not accepted because it does not reflect the principles of democracy and the human rights you believe in," added the statement which was signed by association chairman Mohammad Al Saideen.

The statement urged the council to end the suffering of the Iraqi children and end the inhuman act on the Iraqi people.

CDD, maintenance personnel complete fire-fighting course

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A seven-man team of the Civil Defence Department (CDD) Wednesday finished a three-day course on new fire-fighting equipment.

The new equipment is intended to fight domestic fires," a CDD official told the Jordan Times.

"Our team's task is to supervise and examine the validity and specifications of such equipment before putting it on the market," he added.

The official said the new equipment is easier to handle and operate, particularly by civilians.

Supplied by Huzaima Nasser Corporation, the equipment includes hose reels, extinguishers, dry riser systems, sprinklers, halon replacements, fire hoses, foam compounds, portable foam equipment, hi-volume water relay systems and portable fire pumps.

"Some of this equipment is

used by the CDD and has proved reliable," the official said.

The course, which was conducted by British specialists in fire-fighting and related equipment, was also attended by building engineers and consultants, hospital personnel, new projects personnel and maintenance employees from the private sector.

It aimed at raising public and industry awareness of building fire protection, said Najeb Farkouh, organiser of the course held at the Marriott Hotel.

"There has been an increase in the number of fire accidents in the Kingdom," Mr. Farkouh said, referring to the Inter-Continental and Forte Grand hotel blazes, the Safeway and Fine Factory fires and many more.

"The idea is not to sell equipments, but to sell the concept of providing professional and proper fire protection and to pass the message to concerned parties," Mr. Farkouh said.



Royal Scientific Society Vice President Saeed Alloush (right) and head of a visiting team from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in S. Africa Reine Biesenbach Wednesday sign a cooperation agreement (Petra photo)

Jordan, South Africa to start cooperation in energy fields

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanians and South Africans are launching close cooperation in scientific fields and focusing first on renewable energy and water technology and related environmental management, according to Saeed Alloush, vice president of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

The RSS arrived at an agreement on these areas with a team from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in South Africa which ends a week-long visit to Jordan Thursday, Dr. Alloush told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

To implement the agreement, Dr. Alloush said, the two sides agreed on the exchange of experts, information and the training of personnel.

The RSS and the CSIR Wednesday also signed an executive programme to be implemented in full before the end of 1994, said Dr. Alloush.

In accordance with the programme, a team of scientists from CSIR will come to the RSS to work out final proposals on renewable energy matters that would be approved later by the two sides, and an RSS team of experts will visit South Africa to discuss and finalise proposals on cooperation in water-related issues.

Dr. Alloush said.

The three-member CSIR team and RSS experts said they hoped to expand cooperation in scientific fields and pledged to work towards achieving that goal for the benefit of the two countries, Dr. Alloush added.

During their visit to Jordan, the CSIR team toured the RSS's departments, as well as industries and projects run in cooperation with the RSS, including firms which manufacture solar heaters, said Dr. Alloush.

Dr. Alloush said he signed the cooperation agreement with the S. African team leader, Reine Biesenbach.

Visiting Swiss NGO tours NHF

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 17 women from the Swiss association "Arc-en-Ciel Famille d'Esprit" (Rainbow Family Spirit) Wednesday visited Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) where they were received by In'am Mufti, adviser to Her Majesty Queen Noor for planning, development and NHF international relations.

Mrs. Mufti and senior NHF staff briefed the group on NHF's development philosophy and strategies which focus on family and community development, women, children, promotion of culture and heritage and advancement of education.

The visiting group then

toured NHF's Jordan Design and Trade Center (JDTC) which includes special selections of woolen rugs, embroidered home furnishings, ceramics, glassware, basketry, fashionable clothing, wrought iron furniture, personal accessories and Islamic calligraphy items — all designed and produced by more than 3,000 Jordanian crafts men and women.

Mrs. Mufti told the group that as NHF's JDTC seeks to raise the standards of Jordanian handicrafts production, improve marketing opportunities for crafts, create new jobs and increase women's involve-

ment in production and decision making, it also aims at promoting tourism and cross cultural exchange.

The visiting group expressed their admiration of NHF's serious development endeavours and the high level of craftsmanship exhibited by the Jordan Design and Trade Center.

The 17-member visiting group includes women of different nationalities who work as volunteers in the "Arc-en-Ciel Famille d'Esprit" a non-political and non-profit association based in Berne, Switzerland and established in 1993 as a human reaction against global violence.

Sweden says an equal trade balance requires 'sophisticated' approach

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The current \$35 million trade imbalance between Jordan and Sweden, in the Scandinavian country's favour, was the focus of talks Wednesday between Minister of Trade Kama Khalaf and the Swedish Trade Council (STC) delegation visiting Jordan.

Ambassador Christian Bausch said that although he was sympathetic to Jordanian desires to work towards equalising the deficit, Jordanian exporters need to approach Sweden's markets

"in a more sophisticated way." Although Sweden has an "open market" with a "very high import rate," its major import demands are for pre-fabricated components for industrial manufacturing and machinery, and not for raw materials, he said.

He added that a workshop had been held in Jordan in the summer of 1990 to inform the nation's exporters about dealing with Sweden's markets, "but then it is up to the private sector to follow it up and make a decision."

"We are a free market economy, and while the government can encourage and facili-

tate such imports, we cannot force our private sector to import."

Jordanian exports to Sweden are currently nonexistent, totalling a mere \$0.17 million in 1993.

Mr. Bausch said that in spite of the present situation, Jordanian exporters should not despair in trying to crack open the markets of developed industrial countries such as Sweden.

"We and western Europe are a tough market — but once you're in it, it's a good market," he said.

The STC delegation returns to Sweden today (Thursday).



REVIEWING PHARMACY: Deputy Prime Minister Saeed Taji Wednesday opens a three-day conference on pharmacy in Jordan. Jordanian Pharmacists Association President Husam Mismar (second from right) called for a comprehensive health insurance system for all citizens to help in lowering the cost of medicines (Petra photo)

Drug industry symposium to be held in Damascus

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Union of Producers of Drugs and Medical Appliances holds its 5th symposium on drug industries in Damascus on June 15, according to the union's president, Nizar Jardaneh. The three-day symposium seeks means and methods to develop Arab drug industries in step with scientific and technological developments world-wide. A total of 200 participants representing the Arab drug industries, health ministries and faculties of pharmacy will take part in the symposium, according to Mr. Jardaneh.

Mr. Jardaneh (56) was born in Basra and received his training at the Institute of Fine Arts in Baghdad and later at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, Poland.

The exhibit, which opened at the Ab'ad Gallery on May 2, under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Rania Abdullah, is tentatively scheduled to continue until May 16.

A creator's sense of theme, harmony

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "My paintings have no meaning — I only see them as a document of a certain day and time," says Iraqi artist Mohammad Muhraddin, who is currently displaying a collection of his work at the Al Ab'ad Art Gallery in Amman.

Mr. Muhraddin explained that he never has a fixed idea or concept when he begins a painting.

"I only plan the basic pattern first, then I explore filling it in with shapes and lines, and then I rely on my intuition — the picture tells me what I need and grows by itself."

An obvious iconoclast, Mr. Muhraddin adamantly rejects the idea that rules or traditions apply to art in any way or form, and his philosophy is apparent in his work — it is rather like the freeform scribbles and collages of random objects and shapes which a child might put together, except that the overall pattern and concept is guided by an adult creator's sense of theme and harmony.

He adds that he does not aim to make any social commentary in his art, as many of his contemporary Arab compatriots do, because "life always changes — and thus the ideas and interests of people and nations also change."

Instead, he says, he believes that the essence of art



Mohammad Muhraddin: "(T)he picture tells me what I need and grows by itself."

is creativity and originality, stripped of all other considerations.

"This is the point which stays constant over all the millennia, from ancient Sumeria and Egypt through the time of the Greeks and Romans, and until now."

In addition, he refused to have any definitions put on his art in a regional or national sense.

"I don't feel that because I am an Iraqi, my art must have a particular style — I will use any symbol which catches my eye in my work, whether it is from the West or

the East, Iraq, America or elsewhere. "The form itself is important, not where it came from. Art and civilisation belong to all of humanity."

Mr. Muhraddin (56) was born in Basra and received his training at the Institute of Fine Arts in Baghdad and later at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, Poland.

The exhibit, which opened at the Ab'ad Gallery on May 2, under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Rania Abdullah, is tentatively scheduled to continue until May 16.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Walk to Khirbet Abu Jaber in Al Yadouda at the Souk Sha'abi sponsored by the Jordanian Society for Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) on Friday from Al Abil Club at 8:30 a.m. (Details Tel. 611065)
- ★ Film entitled "Meet John Doe" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m. (120 minutes).
- ★ Choir by students of Al Ahliya School for Girls at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 4:00 p.m.
- ★ Poetry recital by Arab poets at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture on Thursday and Friday at 7:00 p.m. (Tel. 695291).
- ★ Field trip on Friday to Deir 'Alia, Tal Al Mazar, Tal Al Sa'diyah organised by the Friends of Archaeology. Departure will be from the Amra Hotel parking lot at 9:00 a.m. by bus or private cars.
- ★ Lecture in Arabic on Arab capabilities after the collapse of the Soviet Union at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by artist Salman Al Basri at Alla Art Gallery (Tel. 639303).
- ★ Book exhibition and cultural displays at the British Council (10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.).

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Map showing location: AIRPORT HIGHWAY, AMRA HOTEL, SWERFEN, 6TH CIRCLE, ABDOLIN, ABDUL HAMID SHARAF SCHOOL, Bani Hamida, Zawaideh Villa, Save The Children Projects, Contractor's Association, Zawaideh Villa.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Political course, Arab solution

NEITHER SIDE in the Yemeni war appears able to score a decisive victory in spite of early reports that forces from the north loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh were holding the edge. Seven days after the start of the hostilities between the north and the south of Yemen, President Saleh has not gotten anywhere near winning the armed conflict. It is therefore clear that the civil war in Yemen is heading towards a stalemate necessitating a political solution rather than a military one.

There is a sign already that this approach has to be adopted after the Arab League offered the use of its good offices and Sanaa decided to send envoys to Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Yemeni Vice President Ali Salem Al Beidh also last week signalled his willingness to accept Arab mediation when he called His Majesty King Hussein at the beginning of the war.

Any impending political solution would entail the return to the Yemeni accord signed in Amman last February. The Amman formula in fact offered the only viable way to resolve the problems between Aden and Sanaa. It did that by presenting workable ways to integrate the armed forces of the two areas and charting the way for full unity in the country. The fact that both President Saleh and President Beidh have freely negotiated the Amman accord and accepted it thus makes it the only reasonable basis to stop the fighting and start anew.

The main point is to keep these attempts alive and to confine them to an Arab framework. The Kuwaiti situation must never be allowed to repeat itself. The Arab League must be given the opportunity to intervene politically and even militarily if necessary to first end the hostilities and then deal with the political and economic dimensions of the internal conflict. The Arab heads of state must also apply their clout in that direction by making their preference for a political solution loud and clear. Usually an Arab crisis of this kind would make the convening of an Arab summit a sure option. There is hardly a whisper of this idea much less real talk about it. We think this kind of Arab "indifference" must be reversed, and the return to the principle of holding an emergency Arab summit whenever circumstances warrant it needs to be reinstituted. The scars of the Gulf crisis and war cannot hold up Arab concerted actions forever and the Yemeni conflict offers the occasion to do just that and reverse the tide of Arab inaction.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THERE ARE indications coming out from Yemen that the conflict between the northerners and the southerners will be long and painful for both sides, said Al Dustour daily Wednesday. Civil wars are usually more painful and more costly in life and property than wars between nations; and in the case of Yemen, the war is more horrible as both sides possess modern weapons used by regular armies, said the daily. It should be noted as well, said the paper, that the longer the civil wars last, the deeper becomes the hatred between the combatants and more difficult will be the chances for reconciliation. The civil war in Yemen is now a week old, but war communiques issued by the two sides all indicate that they are adamant in their position, which means the war and the bloodshed will continue, the paper added. It said that the only way out of the sufferings and the ordeal facing the Yemeni people is for their leaders to opt for dialogue to end the conflict and to prevent further casualties and more loss of property; and above all, to prevent foreign intervention in the country's internal affairs.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily pointed out the fact that the Israelis have been celebrating the anniversary of their annexation of Arab Jerusalem in an unprecedented manner this week at a time when arrangements are underway for the start of the Palestinian self-rule. How can U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher persuade the Arab parties to resume the peace process in light of Israel's provocative measures, and how can the Arabs be persuaded that Israel is genuinely oriented towards peace with the Arabs, asked Ibrahim Al Abdi.

The View From Academia

Arab society and the challenge of pluralism

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

CURRENTLY, Arab society is going through an extremely difficult and extremely exciting phase. The expectations are great, but so are the risks involved. One crucial challenge with which we have to come to grips sooner than later, if we are to "emerge" into the fast-approaching world of the 21st century healthier and stronger than we have been in the present century, is the apt awareness and recognition of our own pluralism.

Let me begin with two small anecdotes. A few weeks ago, the English Department at Yarmouk University took a group of its students to Amman to watch a performance of Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew," an important happening which was attended by a very interesting mixture of students representing various colleges and schools in the Kingdom. On our way back to Irbid, the conversation centred not so much on the show (as might be expected) but on our students' close but brief and puzzling encounter with what they called the "Ammanis," most of whom were high school pupils.

The Yarmouk group consisted, primarily, of junior and senior English majors who came from Jordanian villages and smaller towns. Many of their comments about the said group from Amman were quite revealing, though (to me) not surprising. One student said, "Are these guys Arabs? Their English is way superior to ours, though they are still kids. They speak better English than the English." Another wondered: "Are they Jordanian? They do not look like us, they do not speak like us, and they do not dress like us." A third asked, "Did you see their haircuts?" I do not know what the "Ammanis" said about our students or the students from Mu'ta, though I can easily guess.

I had a similar experience in Egypt last August. When I asked a question in Jordanian Arabic, I discovered (to my astonishment and great dismay) that I was not at all understood in the streets of Cairo even though the question was as simple as "could you please tell me about a good restaurant where I can have my lunch" and even though I articulated the question in the clearest terms possible. Something in my accent, my diction, my style, my tone, and even my appearance stood in the way. I had often to resort to the broken Egyptian Arabic I learned from the movie or television. When I paid a visit to the Sheraton Hotel, which was swarming with Arabs of all kinds, I felt almost as estranged and alienated as I did when I first landed at JFK Airport in New York in the early 1980s.

The point to emphasise here is simply that, unlike what many of us think or would have us think, the status quo of the Arab culture, both at the regional as well as the national levels, is immensely rich, sophisticated, complex and tense. There are so many sharp differences, varieties, polarities, contrasts, oppositions and even stark contradictions — in addition, of course, to the affinities, similarities, parallels, common conceptions, shared visions and ideals. And this is a beautiful situation, potentially at least.

I am sure that our sociologists, anthropologists, and education officials have a lot to say about these two microcos-

mic anecdotes and about the other more intricate forms of heterogeneity and pluralism in our present-day Arab Nation. As for me, I wish to make the following two observations about the matter.

First, it seems quite obvious to me that we do not know ourselves very well, both regionally and at the pan-Arab level. I was talking with a friend of mine the other day. He said what is true, I believe, for a comfortable majority in the Arab World. "I am saying, and I say it with shame," he told me, "that I know the West more than I know the Arab World." Another friend of mine once said, "I have lived in Irbid all of my life, and I have not been to Syria. I visited Germany, France and Yugoslavia (formerly), but I have never thought of checking out Dira'a, which is 25 minutes away." One can think of countless examples of Jordanians who have lived their lives and died without seeing Aqaba, Wadi Rum, Petra, Irbid, the Dead Sea, Azraq and Amman. What struck me most when I moved to Irbid from Amman 10 years ago were the many misconceptions, at times silly and funny but at times truly upsetting, people from Amman hold vis-a-vis people from Irbid, and vice versa. A friend of mine who once came to visit from Amman said after I gave him a tour of the rapidly expanding city of Irbid, "you know, I thought people in Irbid were bedouins."

For a number of reasons, some understandable and some are not, the Arab of today is essentially aloof and disinterested with respect to what actually goes on around him/her in the immediate community and in the society at large — I mean in terms of real participation and effective involvement, not in terms of the circulation of hearsay, gossip and information communicated second or third-hand.

What is most worrying, in this particular respect, is the absence (totally or partially) of real dialogue within the various communities in each individual Arab country and within the Arab World as a whole. Most of our encounters with Arab nationals visiting our country or residing in it, when they do visit and reside (aside from our Egyptian and Iraqi brothers, with whom we inevitably interact) are either trifle or casual. Part of it is that the Arab of today is generally either uninterested or anti-intellectual. He is much more likely to be excited by a cheap Egyptian TV soap opera or at the sight of a mansion than about a serious conversation with a fellow countryman or an exchange of views with an Arab "brother." This applies almost as much to the man in the street as to the college professor.

Other cultures have understood themselves better and have identified their own intrinsic varieties more crystally than we have; they speak of high culture, popular culture, low culture, counter culture, ethnic culture, dominant culture, marginal culture, the culture of the underground, urban culture and suburban culture. In the Arab World, most of what we talk about is related to three categories: urban culture, countryside culture and bedouin culture — primarily in broad term. With the introduction of democracy in Jordan, which is a blessing in many ways, we are beginning to feel lucky for a fruitful

dialogue is beginning to emerge among the various ethnic, political, economic, regional and power groups.

Secondly, there is a wide discrepancy between what we are told we are or what we think we are on the one hand and what we truly are on the other. This paradox is important to explicate if we are to become adequately aware of our identity. Much of our conception of ourselves as Arabs stems not from our conscious daily experience, our profound perusal of ourselves, our study of our communities or our diligent interaction with the various intrinsic components of our culture, but from what we are told in the radio, the press, the family and the school — which is too idyllic and idealistic. Our sense of our identity (I firmly believe) is mainly theoretical. We are informed in our history, geography, and theology lessons that we are (can present, I mean) one nation, speaking one language, professing one faith, sharing one dream, one geographic unity. And we simply swallow. I am not saying that what we are taught is false, i.e. that we are not Arabs and Muslims. No, what I am saying, rather, is that our view of ourselves is either too simplistic or too metonymic. And this is what causes the shock (as in the two anecdotes).

I would go as far as to say that the Arab of today is suffering from what one may best call cultural schizophrenia. We live, that is, in two worlds simultaneously: the very ideal and the very real, but not in a healthy mixture of both. We have convinced ourselves that the Arab World is our homeland, and yet the hassle we go through at the border when we travel from one Arab country to another is 20 times more than that we go through when we travel to Honolulu. Worse yet, try to obtain a visa to one of the sacred Arab countries (let's not name them). Quite simply, we are either too romantic in our conception of ourselves as Arabs or too downright realistic in the one we feel too comfortable, in the other we feel too uncomfortable. There is no middle-ground. Understandably, we often prefer to live in the former.

Such schizophrenia can be disastrous at times. Look at what is happening to our Yemeni brothers, look at the violence in Egypt, in Algeria, and to the messy situation in Lebanon.

We need to understand ourselves better, to recognise our differences, to create a dialogue about them, to distinguish our youth between the ideal and the real, to teach them how to bridge the gap, and to facilitate communication within the larger Arab homeland. Is it difficult for the ministry of education to arrange frequent meetings or host joint activities involving students from Western Amman and Eastern Amman? Is it difficult for a Moroccan University to send 20 students annually to spend a semester at a Jordanian university, and vice versa? We need to open up a little to ourselves.

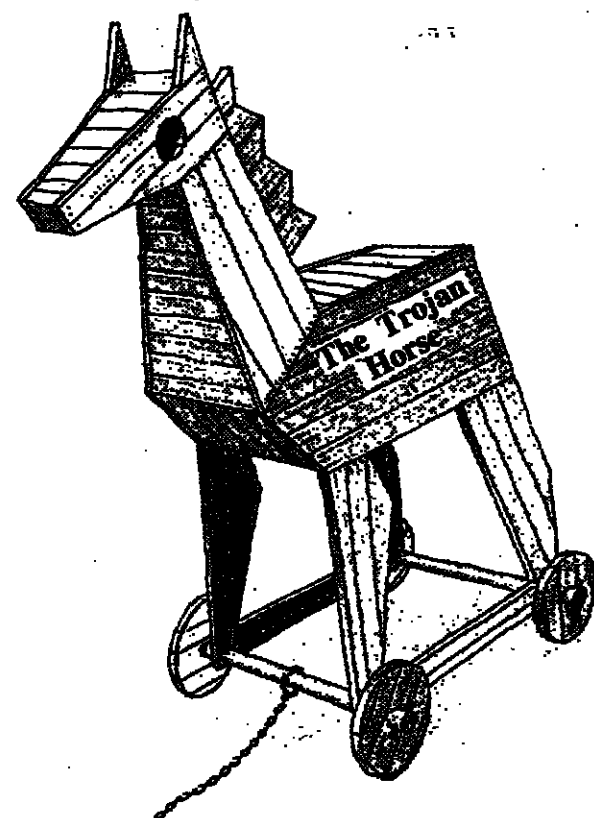
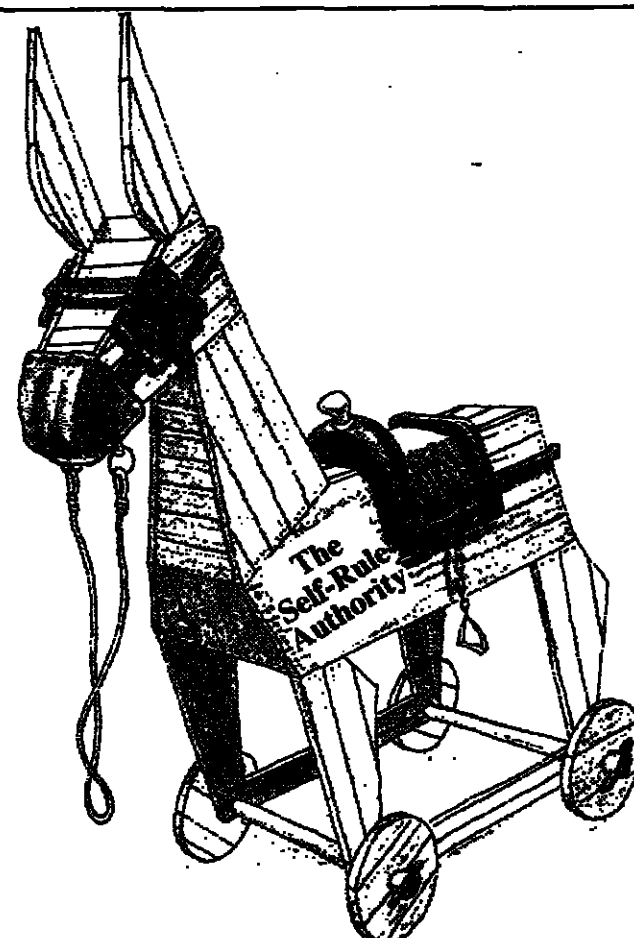
Arab pluralism can be a blessing, if we identify it better and deal with it more effectively.

The writer is professor of American literature at Yarmouk University.

WASHINGTON WATCH

By Dr. James Zogby

The next steps towards Palestine



THE EUPHORIA that surrounded the White House signing of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) declaration of principles (DoP) was nowhere in evidence last week in Cairo at the signing of the Gaza-Jericho interim agreement.

There was a heavy dose of realism in the air, a clear and unequivocal sense that the Israelis had squeezed too hard, that the Palestinians had been forced to give up too much and the agreement, while still workable, left the Palestinians in an extremely weak position.

Critics are noting that Yasser Arafat did not achieve what Nelson Mandela won in South Africa. But such comparisons are ahistorical to the point of being absurd. The campaign to make South Africa a unified democratic state had strong U.S. and European and Soviet support for decades. An effective international sanctions regime, operating with the full support of the U.S., was one of Mr. Mandela's most effective weapons.

Over the past 20 years Mr. Arafat has had, at best, the passive support of Europe and, at worst, he faced the full power and authority of the U.S. that was aligned against his movement and its aspirations. To a great extent, the problems that will be faced in implementing the Israel-PLO peace process are the result of the miscalculations in Israeli and Arab politics that accumulated during the past 25 years of struggle.

The fact that the Israel-PLO conflict was a factor in the larger East-West struggle is one such factor. As a result of this dynamic, the Israelis, especially during the Reagan years, received near blank check to pursue the goals of expansion into the West Bank and Gaza, annexation of East Jerusalem and the eradication of the Palestinian national movement.

It was those pressures combined that weakened the leadership of the national movement and created the conditions which led to the emergence of regional extremist and rejectionist tendencies that are now threatening the move toward peace. No only is the Palestinian leadership a victim of extremist forces that weaken their hold, but the Israeli government is confronted by an extremist movement (including the former Likud government) that was weakened on, and some would say spoiled by, unquestioned

U.S. support and now operates as a law unto itself in Israeli society.

It is with the perspective defined by history that one can justify the current agreement.

I could agree in the abstract with the position espoused by, for example, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine that the best solution is a comprehensive peace based upon Security Resolutions 242 and 338 (and other relevant resolutions) which call for full Israeli unconditional withdrawal and the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza with its capital in East Jerusalem — but would Israel ever agree to that formula, and which U.S. administration or European government would force such a solution?

Dreams can be entertaining and even sustaining, but they are not politics and cannot survive in its light. Substituting our dreams for reality is a recipe for unmitigated disaster.

The critics aside, reality — as somber as it is — dictates that we understand the circumstances of the times before defining our goals and setting out a realistic plan to achieve them.

In this regard, the dire

warnings of the Israeli right wing can be true. The Gaza-Jericho accord can be (and I believe that it is in fact) the first step to the creation of an independent Palestinian state. The path to that end is neither near nor quick — the details of the accord itself ensures as much — but the path is genuinely there, as the Likud and their allies can plainly see.

But it will take real hard work to travel that path, and there is a slim possibility that the Palestinian critics of the accord could also be right, that the accord could just be laying the groundwork for a continuing and grim occupation. Where those critics are wrong, however, is that the outcome will not be decided by the Israelis, the U.S. or anyone else. The Palestinian people and their leadership can now take control of their fate, and it is imperative that they take the control firmly in their grasp.

The fact that the delay in implementation and the weaknesses the accord itself has left an absence of euphoria in Palestinian society is not a bad thing. Too much euphoria would lead to expectations which would place an undue burden on the Palestinian authority. One of the greatest dangers facing

any transition government is unrealistically high expectations and the resulting political turmoil when they cannot be met (witness, for example, the difficulties in Russia and Poland). Low expectations, on the other hand, actually give the Palestinian authority some needed breathing space.

But even with this space change must occur, and the national authority must be in a position to deliver services and achieve economic growth in order to survive and expand its popular mandate. An effort must be made to mobilise Palestinian talent and resources in this nation-building phase. And institutions must be created to provide a conduit for this talent and these resources to be effectively put to work in building the nation.

Mr. Arafat has often said that the Palestinians are the state-builders of the Middle East. He speaks with pride of the role that Palestinian entrepreneurs, administrators and civil servants have played in building several Arab countries. But the question remains whether these talented and creative Palestinian leaders have been brought into the plans to help design the administration of the Gaza-Jericho areas.

Something akin to a Palestinian peace corps should be created to recruit the talent of diaspora Palestinians and bring them to work in Gaza and the West Bank, even if only for a year at a time, to share their experience in the nation-building experiment.

Palestinian and Arab capital must find a way to be invested in the area as well — but this will not occur unless the climate suitable for such investment is created.

To create a free-market economy that will spur rapid economic growth will require an economic plan that fosters private sector development. Tax-free enterprise zones must be created, and other incentives should be provided to lure investment to the newly autonomous areas. And ultimately, the big dream of an independent and thriving Palestinian economy will come about only if the small dreams of private investors and entrepreneurs can come true. An economic commission should be instituted to promote investment, to help grow the nascent Palestinian industry in the territories and to eliminate obstacles to match-making and implementation in the expansion of industry and economic growth.

While a great deal more

can be said about what needs to be done, especially in the area of institutionalising Palestinian democracy (which must grow to be more than the tolerance of free speech) and the continued use of non-violent direct action tactics to expand Palestinian rights and ultimately win a total end of the occupation, one final recommendation that would significantly aid in the advancement of Palestinian statehood is the need to upgrade the Palestinian mission to Washington. For too long the Palestinians have been without a serious voice in Washington. What is required is a seasoned and respected diplomat who is capable of both helping to shape the policy debate in Washington and also able to win support for Palestinian aspirations among key sectors of U.S. society. For 25 years, Palestinians fought against Washington and the U.S. policies that were hostile toward their goals.

Now is the time to take seriously the need to provide both leadership and strategy aimed at winning U.S. support for Palestinian rights.

The writer is president at the Washington-based Arab-American Institute.

A matter of imagination

By Jean-Claude Elias

Extremes have always been attractive to me and when I think of a personal computer (PC) as a tool, I often compare it to a pen. Correlating a highly sophisticated product to an extremely simple one may seem exaggerated at first sight but it is not. Just like a pen can be used to write an infinite variety of words, sentences or texts, PCs also can be used in thousands of different applications.

The result, when using the same tool, depends highly on the user, his age, gender, occupation and personality. Just like a pen in the hand of a businessman, a poet or schoolboy will produce different texts, PCs will be used in many various ways by the above mentioned people.

Because of its inherent complexity however, a PC has the negative tendency to limit, restrict and sometimes even inhibit people's imagination and creativity. Very few users completely go past the learning process and feel comfortable enough with the machine to free themselves from technophobia and really benefit from all the system's possibilities.

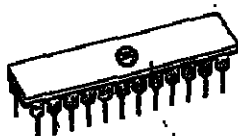
One practical way to live in harmony with PCs is to capitalise on the many available peripherals and accessories, often considered as luxury options. There is an incredible range of products that are much more fun to use and certainly more communicative than the standard monitor, the keyboard or even the printer.

The mouse, first introduced in the eighties with the famous but short-lived "Lisa" computer by Apple, remains the simplest and possibly the friendliest, most practical, most useful accessory.

In addition to the expensive, professional document scanners and optical disks that have often been discussed in this column, PC users can enjoy a wide array of other affordable additions.

Hand-held scanners, small colour printers, sound

chip talk



cards, MIDI music cards, TV-Video cards, fax cards and robotic arms, to name only a few, will add a touch of fantasy to your gloomy daily computing. With local prices ranging from 100 to 300 dinars they are worth every fils you would spend on them.

The main advantage is the window they can open for you in terms of new ideas and applications. Forget about word processing, spreadsheets, data bases and calculations. Forget even the boring computer games. Take a sound card, a video card and create a short film, a documentary or a cartoon. Get a robotic arm and programme it to shake hands, to serve coffee. Scan your family's, your friends' photographs and integrate them in the letters you would write them. In other words, move from passive to active.

Another, but slightly more expensive device lets you create images, graphics on the screen, and then obtain an output of the work on a slide, transparency or even a regular printed colour photograph, by attaching a camera to the PC. Standard software like Harvard Graphics offer such an option.

The world of personal computing is fascinating to explore. The above mentioned accessories and tools can tremendously help and contribute to expand one's imagination and enjoy the exploration.

Are private universities fancy dumps?

By E. Yaghi

First of all, this article does not pertain to those private universities that are administered by qualified personnel, but to the ones that lag way behind conventional standards. The most important requirement to be met by any president of a private university is to be well-qualified for the job that he fills. He must be competent at his job, have the required qualifications to carry out his duties and be on good terms with his staff in a more or less democratic atmosphere which follows suit with the democratic trends in Jordan. Deans who staff their various departments should not be hired merely to pay lip service to him and act as spies on the other professors who do not grovel to outlandish demands of their president. Such deans divide the teaching personnel into two camps, those who pay added lip service to their employer and those who speak out whenever they feel that the president is making unjust demands or unwise decisions.

It is only common sense therefore, that chairpersons of every department within the university should be people who have their own personalities and not ones who can never make decisions on their own, cannot think for themselves and who spend their time, to phrase it nicely, polishing apples for their superior, or listening to students' endless complaints about those professors who are not in the same shining camp that polishes the president's boots or apples. No actions should be made simply to ingratiate unreasonable demands without taking into consideration if those actions are right or wrong.

In some private universities, the president may have his doors open to students to hear their complaints, including those about professors who did not give them the grades they wished or perform the way they thought best. At the other end of the scale are the public universities which pay little heed to student complaints. There must be some happy meeting ground where not all trivial matters will be listened to against alleged offending professors nor places where students are never able to express their views and wishes.

It definitely is a problem and a concern for our country when private universities perform more like commercial companies than institutions of learning. Students must be given grades they deserve and have earned. Often, students in private universities demand that their marks never fall below 70 out of 100. This is all well and good if they put forth the effort and time to obtain these grades, but very detrimental if they think they deserve a certain average simply because their parents paid an exorbitant tuition. No university should cater to the whims of such students because this then undermines the whole system and value of the level of education offered at such institutions. All students are potential leaders of their tomorrows and no future should be built on a shaky foundation.

Also, presidents should never take sides against their teaching staff only to flatter students whom they wish to retain as precious customers and avoid offending them. Any professor has every right to defend himself and he should not be considered guilty until proven innocent, but innocent until proven guilty. Furthermore, professors should not be forced to attend lectures outside their own departments by visiting professors just to fill otherwise empty chairs in auditoriums. To attend or not to attend such lectures should be up to the discretion of

each and every professor who works at that particular university. Observations of visiting lecturers should be open to both students and teaching staff and only those wishing to be present should do so. It is a sign of hypocrisy to force professors to attend lectures they are not concerned with or interested in.

Also, no student should be allowed to enter classes one and a half months late at any university. This practice has been abused in some private universities, again, to comply with and please customers. Students are not customers, they are in institutions of learning to learn. How can any student miss a month and a half of lectures and then pretend to comprehend the subject he/she has missed so much of? In most public universities, no student is allowed to miss more than seven hours unless for medical reasons or a sudden death in the family. This is reasonable, for there is nothing students like more than to skip classes. Each lecture is valuable and is based on the previous lecture before it. Lectures are like building blocks and are structured upon each other. There are also some students who ask to spend three weeks outside Jordan to renew their residences in certain Gulf countries. This procedure requires only spending one week not three away from lectures. Some students claim that their grandfathers or grandmothers died and also miss classes. No one bothers to investigate these claims to see if they are valid or not.

Sometimes professors are employed who are graduates of universities in the developing world. Of these, some can hardly read, write or speak English. One would imagine such graduates who attend universities in English to be somewhat fluent in that language, for how can such a graduate have grasped his subject if he is not able to read or speak his target language? Why does the Ministry of Higher Education only recognise 500 American universities when it is widely known that the United States has one of the best systems of education in the world? Is this because our standards are rusty and we follow antique codes of recognition, or are there other reasons?

Constant inspection should be made of all private universities to ensure that they maintain a specific standard.

Tests must be conducted that compare the students of private universities with those of public universities in the same departments to determine if students from private institutions maintain the same level as those at public ones. It would be most interesting to see which students have the better grades on such tests.

Again, this article is not against all private universities. Without mentioning names, some of these universities are administered by excellent presidents who perform great services to those establishments they are connected with. On the other hand, some private universities are disgraceful and make a bad reputation for the rest. A president of any university holds one of the greatest tasks of any job, for it is his duty to ensure that the institution he heads turns out students who have gained enough knowledge to enable them to provide for their future. No president should be a dictator or tyrannical. The professors he employs must neither pay lip service to his every command whether pragmatic or not, nor should they in turn esteem themselves as demi-gods over their students. There must be a joyful medium where the needs of students and teachers are met and respected regardless if the institution is private or public.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

- A young American boy designed a fingerless glove so as children could use it in playing baseball.
- The Food Museum at Vivi, a town in Switzerland, exhibits a monumental Pharaonic cake up of honey, sesame and milk. It dates back to 2200 B.C.
- A Californian expert produced a lamp that has the thickness of a man's hair.
- An American adorned his car with water taps.
- A bicycle built in 1898 could seat 10 people.
- It takes 7,000 grains of aspirin to make a pound (about 500 grams).

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- I hear you're going abroad!
Balaghani amaka munafrin cial kharij!
- That's right. I'm going to Canada.
Haza zahit. Eami munafrin cial Canada.
- Are you going there on a visit?
Hal asta zahit fee ziyara cial honak?
- Yes, I'll see my elder brother.
Na'am, sawfa ara akhil akher.
- Is he married?
Hal howa mutazawwij?
- Yes, he is married to a Canadian lady.
Na'am, ennak mutazawwij besayyeda Canadeya.
- Did they visit Jordan?
Hal zaru Al Ordona?
- They visit Jordan once every two years.
Homa yazarun Al Ordona marratan kull sanatain.
- Do you like to travel?
Hal tohibbo as safar?
- Oh, yes! I like to meet people and see the world.
Na'am. Ohib an okail amas wa arakalam.
- Have you ever read anything about Canada?
Hal kura'ni ayy shay an Canada?
- I've read a lot about it: Its history, culture, ways of life, customs and traditions and many other things.
Lakad kura'tu al-khatir anba: Tarikho, thaqafatoha, asaleeb hayat, al adat wattakaleed wa ashya okhira kathira.
- Do you speak English?
Hal tatakallamul ingleezeya?
- Yes, I can speak and write English and French.
Na'am, astati an atakallam wa aktob al-inglezeya wal-faransaya.
- How long are you going to stay there?
Mal-modda alati tarwi iqamatoha honak?
- About three months.
Hawali thalathet shohoor.
- I wish you a happy stay.
Atammuna laka iqama sa'eeda.
- Thank you very much.
Shukran jazelan.

AN INVITATION TO LAUGHTER

- ★ A man planned to have dinner with Joha's father. On his way to the house, he met Joha while playing with little children.
- "Where's your father, Joha?" asked the man.
- "First give me a morsel of bread and then I'll tell you his whereabouts," Joha said.

- ★ One day Joha entered an orchard. His dress was attached to a tree branch. Addressing the branch, Joha said: "Unless you were a beast, I'd break your neck!"

- ★ Once Joha lost his donkey and went to look for it saying to himself: "Thanks be to Allah".
- When asked why he said so, he promptly answered: "I thanked God because if I had been riding it, I'd have been lost with it!"

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. How many legs does a spider have?
2. What does HB on a pencil mean?
3. What is the most commonly used letter of the alphabet?
4. What are the seven colour of the rainbow?
5. What is a belcher?
6. Of which country is AVIACO the national airline?
7. Who coined the term "RED TAPE"?
8. Who first described Herodotus as "the father of history"?

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

COLLISION: This dream predicts that you'd better take positive action in regard to making a decision. If you don't trust your own judgement, seek friendly (or professional) advice but stop dithering.

ECLIPSE: A very unusual dream probably arising from a subconscious worry concerning your health or that of someone close to you. In either case a medical checkup would be helpful.

PUZZLES

(A) There is a frog at the bottom of a well. The well is 10 metres deep. Each day the frog jumps up three metres and then slips back two metres. When will the frog reach the top of the well at that rate?

(B) The middle THREE LETTERS of these five-letter words form short words themselves. But what are the five-letter words?

1		P	E	A
2		W	A	N
3		T	E	A
4		E	A	R
5		C	A	R
6		R	U	N
7		L	O	P
8		T	I	N
9		R	I	P
10		C	O	P

- 1- An ancient throwing weapon.
- 2- To show off.
- 3- The vapour from boiling water.
- 4- A precious stone.
- 5- To frighten.
- 6- The chief strain.
- 7- To run away secretly with a lover.
- 8- To smell badly.
- 9- Rubbish; also lining of a cow's stomach.
- 10- Opportunity; the range of action.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, May 12

8:30 Bony

Under The Influence
Bony investigates a series of murders that take place in a winery, which has been in the same family for five generations.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — The Bastion

Starring: Robert Vaughn, Michael Blakemore, John Wood

The historical events following the German entry into Poland in 1939, which was followed by Britain and Australia entering the war... We also witness General MacArthur's arrival in Australia to lead the allied forces against the Japanese.

Friday, May 13

9:10 Scene Of The Crime

Stalk Radio
A radio announcer's foul language and aggressive behaviour on air, not only invites high ratings to the station, but threatening letters as well.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Middlemarch

11:10 Threes' Company

Lies, My Roommate Told Me

How can Jack keep Janette out of the house? He plans a lunch date with Larry.

Saturday, May 14

8:30 The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air

Clubba Hubba

William presents himself to a girl as an aristocrat, from the jet set. But it turns out that what she likes in him is his real self.

9:00 One To One

A local interview programme hosted by Dr. Ziad Rifa'i.

9:30 The Campbells

Eyes Of Angels
James steps in at the right moment to save two blacks from an imminent death at the hands of a racist.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — The Last Bastion

Starring: Robert Vaughn, Michael Blakemore, John Wood.

Sunday, May 15

8:30 You Bet Your Life

Bill Cosby hosts this very funny and entertaining quiz show.

9:10 Stolen Lives

On her death bed, the maid reveals the secret of the baby girl to the ignorant father. Evelyn has to face the consequences of lying.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The House Of Eliott

The second series
JTV starts the second series of The House Of Eliott, the sumptuous costume drama, in which the lives and careers of Beatrice and Evangeline today take a new turn, as their attention turns to focus on Paris.

11:10 The Upper Hand

Who's Who

Charlie lies about his real profession when he goes out on a date, and Carol, eager to go on a date too, lies about her's.

Monday, May 16

8:30 The Nanny

Nanny suggests to the father a practical way to explain the dangers of smoking to the little boy.

8:55 Jordanesque

9:10 Equinox

Theme Park Heaven
The programme looks at the recent advances in graphics designs technology, and how Walt Disney, in particular, transferred this dream instrument to an exciting and entertaining reality.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Black Powder

11:10 Top Cops

Tape To Tape Master
Heroic police work involving a bank robbery in New York, a woman killer in Florida, and the arrests and later killing of Lee Harvey Oswald in 1963.

Tuesday, May 17

8:30 Step By Step

The Paper Chase

Kodie and Carol are left to babysit, while J.T. gets into trouble for selling reports to the opposing football team.

9:10 Moon Over Miami

If You Only Knew

An old missing jazz musician is found by Walter and team; his daughter tells them he's been missing for 40 long years.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Cape Rebel

The Challenge Of Arende

Through an intricate plan of escape, Sloet manages to slip from the hold of his captors, with gun in hand. But his wife still faces trouble.

11:10 The Second Half

Mr. Television

John is to sit in for a TV screen test: He is seeking to become a sports programme presenter.

Wednesday, May 18

8:30 Too Close For Comfort

A gun found in the suitcase of an English guest drives Henry to assume that he had come to assassinate the Russian ambassador.

9:00 The Best Of Magic

9:30 The World Of The 30's

The former Soviet Union is under Stalin's rule: No place for religion, land property or any kind of freedom. His supreme rule forces the young to work in camps, under extreme supervision.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Poldark

During a party at his mansion, George Warleggan woos Elizabeth; while Ross's concern is to secure the release of Jimmy from prison.

'Safe sun' practices urged as skin cancers rise

By Joanne Kenen
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Citing new data that shows lethal skin cancers are on the rise, skin doctors and U.S. health officials have joined forces to urge people to practice "safe sun" this summer.

"Skin cancer is the world's most common cancer," stating an enormous public health problem," Dr. Howard the Boston University School of Medicine news conference.

B-sides advising the use of hats and sunscreen lotions and avoiding the summer sun altogether at peak hours, he and other experts warned that artificial tanning devices added to cancer risk and made the skin wrinkle and age.

Surveys showed people

sunbathe less and were increasingly aware of the skin-cancer risks, said Dr. Peyton Weary, president of the American Academy of Dermatology.

But he said the "tanning parlour junkies" had not gotten the message that "there is no such thing as safe ultraviolet radiation."

Koh said new research showed there would be a million or more new cases of skin cancer in the United States alone this year — up from previous estimates of about 700,000 a year.

More than one in six Americans will get some form of skin cancer in their lifetime. Increasing skin cancer rates have also been reported in Australia and elsewhere.

Of the million cases, at least 32,000 will be malignant melanomas — the most lethal form of skin

cancer, which can be treated effectively if detected early.

Basal cell carcinoma, the most common form of skin cancer, is less deadly but can be disfiguring.

The new cancer rate estimates, based on research at Brown University, will be published this month in the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, Dr. Koh said.

The scientists expressed concern about the possible implications of the depletion of ozone levels in the Earth's upper atmosphere. Ozone filters out ultraviolet rays, which are believed to be the biggest single cause of skin cancer.

But they declined to draw a definite link between thinning ozone layers and cancer, pending conclusive research.

They urged people, especially young children, to wear protective clothing and sunscreen with an SPF factor of at least 15 whenever outside, not just at the beach.

But the doctors said millions of people may have already damaged their skin, perhaps from a childhood sunburn.

"There's a lag time," said Dr. Stephen Katz, chief of the dermatology branch at the National Cancer Institute, and emphasised the need for early detection.

Fair-skinned people are at the highest risk, though darker toned skin is not immune. People who have spent lots of time out of doors, particularly when they were young, and people who have irregularly shaped moles or who have changing or new moles, should also be checked.

Report: Tobacco companies knew cigarette hazards in 1963

NEW YORK (AP) — Internal documents from a major tobacco company show that executives knew in 1963 about the hazards of cigarette smoking and decided against telling the Surgeon General, the New York Times has reported.

Executives at Brown and Williamson Tobacco Corp. chose to remain silent at a time when the Surgeon General was preparing a report saying for the first time that cigarettes are a health hazard, the newspaper said.

The executives chose to keep research results secret, to stop work on a safer cigarette and to pursue a legal and public relations strategy admitting nothing, the Times said.

In more than 100 documents, letters and cables from the 1960s, the officials

spoke of the hazards of cigarettes and stated plainly to one another that nicotine is addictive, the newspaper said.

In one document, the Times said, the company's general counsel said Brown and Williamson's research had found that cigarettes caused or predisposed people to lung cancer, contributed to heart disease and might cause emphysema.

The statements contradict the tobacco industry's contention over the last three decades that it has not been proved that cigarettes are harmful or that nicotine is addictive.

Researchers formerly with other tobacco companies and industry experts said that the debate within Brown and Williamson was echoed within each of the other major companies, and

that some of the documents and arguments within that company were shared with executives of other companies through the Tobacco Industry Research Committee and later the Council on Tobacco Research, the newspaper said.

In recent months, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said for the first time that it would consider regulating cigarettes. To establish control, the FDA must show that nicotine is addictive and that tobacco companies intentionally exercise control over the amount of nicotine in cigarettes.

Officials at Brown and Williamson, which makes Kool, Viceroy and other brands, refused to comment, the Times reported. The companies did send a letter to the newspaper

saying the documents were "stolen by a former employee of a law firm doing work for Brown and Williamson."

The company also said the documents should not be disclosed because some of them may be subject to attorney-client privilege and may be covered by an injunction forbidding their release.

The injunction was issued by Judge Thomas B. Wise of Jefferson Circuit in Louisville, Ky. He is presiding over a case in which Brown and Williamson is suing a man named Merrell Williams, who they say stole documents from the company.

A lawyer for the Times, Adam Liptak, said he did not believe that the injunction applied to the newspaper.

Asians getting illnesses of the affluent as incomes improve

By Cecil Morella
Agence France Presse

MANILA — Increasing numbers of Asians are dying of diseases related to the affluent as diets and eating habits change with the region's rapid economic growth, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Rising incomes, higher levels of education and better access to medical treatment have helped push life expectancy in the region to a median of above 60, says Hang Sang Tae, WHO regional director for the Western Pacific.

But he said the region's economic growth meant that high sugar and salt "fast foods" were replacing traditional and healthier fish and vegetable-based diets, leading to problems such as tooth decay and diabetes.

Dr. Han said that while

Asia's poorer countries continued to fight diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis, "lifestyle-related diseases" — high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity — had increased in the region's booming economies.

The WHO blames the shift from traditional diets to refined and sugar-rich meals for the fact that 90 per cent of all adults in the region — encompassing East Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific — suffer from tooth decay.

Recent WHO studies show that the incidence of obesity in the region has been increasing in all countries. Some 41 per cent of Australian men and 23 per cent of Australian women were found to be grossly overweight.

In Singapore, the number of diabetes cases has been climbing, and in Vietnam, a

new convert to the market economy, deaths from cardio-vascular complications have been on the rise.

But the WHO has stressed that not all "lifestyle diseases" were caused by improving economic fortunes. One study showed that obesity, while "becoming a problem in the affluent young of other countries," was "most prevalent in the island states of the Pacific" due to traditional diets.

The study also showed that changing diets had benefited some rural populations. It cited the case of China, where low-protein and micronutrient-deficient diets were being replaced by healthier eating habits.

Dr. Han said economic prosperity had also increased access to cigarettes — often marketed as a social emancipator for women — across the Asia-Pacific region.

"Of course, they do smoke. In Japan, Singapore, all these young people they think cigarette smoking is a kind of fashion," Dr. Han said.

In China alone, the WHO estimates some two million people will die of lung cancer and related diseases by 2025. It said deaths attributable to heart disease in China had tripled to 214.3 per 100,000 people over the past three decades.

Dr. Han also said that alcohol was now more available, contributing to problems such as drunken driving.

Asians "can afford to buy beer so they take more," he said.

He cited the case of South Korea, where alcohol-related traffic accidents claim almost 40 people per 100,000 annually, one of the world's worst road safety records.

Cystic fibrosis drug shows promise in treating chronic bronchitis

By Sandra Skowron
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — A genetically engineered drug used to treat cystic fibrosis also has shown promise in reducing deaths from chronic bronchitis, according to a recent preliminary study.

The study, funded by the maker of the drug, involved 244 patients hospitalised with chronic bronchitis, an inflammation of the bronchial tubes that afflicts roughly 12.5 million Americans. About 600,000 cases annually are serious enough to require hospitalisation.

A group of 123 patients treated with the drug Dnase

in 19 hospitals nationwide suffered 61 per cent fewer deaths than 121 patients who did not receive the drug, said Dr. Antonio Anzueto, an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Centre in San Antonio.

"It is very well tolerated, no major side effects. None of the patients had to be stopped (from treatment) because of side effects," Prof. Anzueto said.

Patients receiving Dnase required fewer trips back to the hospital — 26 per cent compared with 41 per cent in the control group, according to findings presented to the annual clinical research meeting of the

American Federation for Clinical Research, the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians meeting in Baltimore.

"It is extremely interesting data that needs to be confirmed. If it is shown to be effective (in a larger test group), it would be a major advance," said Dr. Barry Make, professor of medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, who was not involved in the test.

The study was financed by Dnase's manufacturer, San Francisco-based Genentech. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration

approved Dnase, consisting of an enzyme normally produced in the human pancreas and salivary glands, in 1993 to break up lung secretions in sufferers of cystic fibrosis, the inherited lung disease.

Of the 121 patients who did not receive the drug, 15 died, compared with 26 deaths in the Dnase group. Fifteen per cent of the Dnase group suffered lapses, compared with 27 per cent of the control group.

Genentech is planning an international study that would involve 3,000 patients, spokesman Hank Fuchs said.

Peru, major source of coca, faces addiction problem

By Alex Emery
The Associated Press

LIMA — Yoni sucked some white powder into a cigarette, lit up and blew clouds of pungent smoke around his dark, foul-smelling hovel.

He is in his mid-30s, but his gaunt, unshaven features make him look 10 years older, testimony to years of drug addiction. His shirt and trousers are ragged, his bare feet covered with sores.

"It makes you feel pain. I want to give it up. But I have an account to settle before leaving this place," Yoni said, showing recent knife wounds on his chest and left arm.

Maybe he meant to take revenge on his attacker. Maybe it was just an excuse to stay in Rio Seco, a cluster of shacks that is one of many drug dens in Lima.

Yoni belongs to the growing ranks of drug addicts in Peru, a leading producer of coca leaf, the raw material for cocaine. Peru has been economically hooked on the \$1 billion-a-year trade for years, but addiction to the drug itself is relatively new.

Prolonged recession, widespread poverty and discrimination against Indians drive many Peruvians to drugs, said Maritza Rojas, head of the private centre of Information and Education for the Prevention of Drug Abuse.

"The crisis generates a lot of stress, and that's leading more and more people to look for a way out in drugs," Ms. Rojas said. "But we just don't have the infrastructure to fight addiction adequately."

Her centre, financed by the U.S. Agency for International Development, deals with addiction to a

wide range of drugs, from marijuana and cocaine to industrial chemicals and medicines.

By far the most addictive is "pasta basica de cocaína" or PBC, the semirefined compound Yoni was smoking.

According to a study by the centre, nearly 40 per cent of 2,000 Peruvian males surveyed had tried PBC, which resembles crack, and one-third were aged 15 to 18.

Increasing addiction and an attendant rise in street crime have begun to alarm Peruvians.

Newspapers and radio stations run anti-drug campaigns. Television news programmes show druged schoolchildren fighting in playgrounds.

Still, little is being done to alter the trend. One recent day, at the private Villa San Juan Bautista Rehabilitation Centre on Lima's eastern outskirts, two dozen recovering addicts sweated their way through squats and push-ups.

Augusto Egoavil, a former addict who runs the centre, said hundreds of families were begging him to admit their children.

"I'd love to open our doors to everybody, but without any help from the state, we just can't afford to take in any more," he said.

The histories of addicts at the centre are similar: As kids, they smoked marijuana with friends, then looked for stronger sensations in PBC, which diminishes the appetite, takes away all notion of time, and eventually impairs speech and brain functions.

"I was worse than garbage," said Henry, who would not give his last name. "The pasta made me

steal from my family, my neighbours. It drove me crazy."

He pulled off his shirt to reveal a ladder of purple scars on both arms from self-inflicted razor blade cuts.

PBC is easily obtainable, and relatively cheap — the equivalent of 45 cents for a "quite" or PBC cigarette, enough for a brief high. But many addicts smoke dozens of the cigarettes a day, forcing the men to steal and women to become prostitutes in order to support their habits.

As the coca industry booms, studies show a decline in cocaine consumption among the U.S. middle class. That decline led to overproduction, driving prices down and causing traffickers to dump cocaine on the local market, said Ricardo Yoberon of the Andean Jurists Commission, a private think tank.

Meanwhile, under a bridge in an area of Lima called Amazonas, there is a filthy human wreck sitting on a pile of garbage-smoking pasta, eyes staring wildly at nothing.

"They're too far gone to even try rehab," said Egoavil, who used to smoke with them. "They're just waiting to die."

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

- Eight.
- Hard black.
- The letter "e".
- Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet.
- A pocket handkerchief.
- Spain.
- Charles Dickens.
- The Roman orator and statesman, Cicero.

PUZZLES

(A) On the seventh day the frog will slip back to seven metres. So on the eighth day it will just reach the top with a 3-metre jump.

- (B) 1. Spear.
2. Swank.
3. Steam.
4. Pearl.
5. Scare.
6. Brunt.
7. Elope.
8. Stink.
9. Tripe.
10. Scope.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

PEASE PORRIDGE
By Joan D. Berbrich

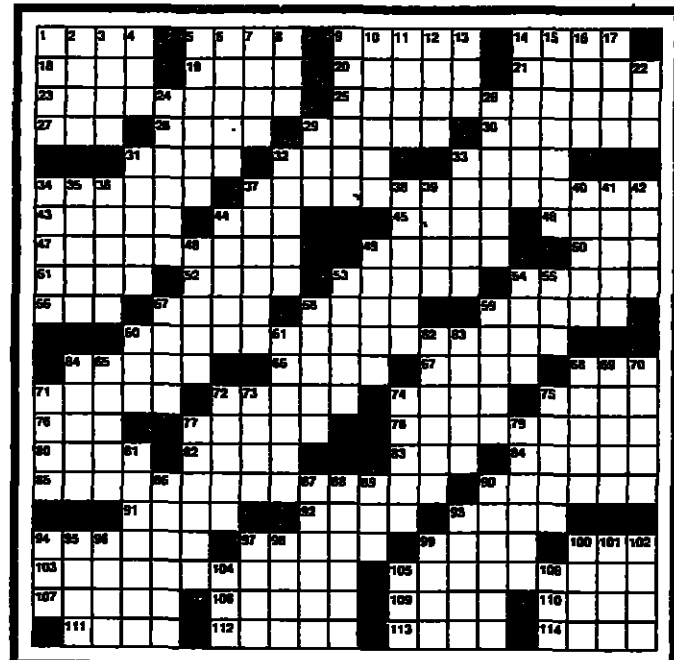
- ACROSS
- 1 D Urubelvi girl
 - 2 Norwegian king
 - 3 Gang or team end
 - 4 Turf
 - 5 Narcosis
 - 6 Fall back
 - 7 Tarnan's Mends
 - 8 Defiant
 - 9 Nod of computer
 - 10 "A Clockwork..."
 - 11 "I believe"
 - 12 Notable periods
 - 13 Water barrier
 - 14 Shepherds
 - 15 Lamp on wall
 - 16 Towel word
 - 17 Japanese statesman
 - 18 Goddess of night
 - 22 Annet
 - 26 Curving
 - 28 Ruler abet
 - 31 Shore sight

- DOWN
- 1 Record
 - 2 Charles Lamb
 - 3 Gang or team end
 - 4 Turf
 - 5 Narcosis
 - 6 Fall back
 - 7 Tarnan's Mends
 - 8 Defiant
 - 9 Nod of computer
 - 10 "A Clockwork..."
 - 11 "I believe"
 - 12 Notable periods
 - 13 Water barrier
 - 14 Shepherds
 - 15 Lamp on wall
 - 16 Towel word
 - 17 Japanese statesman
 - 18 Goddess of night
 - 22 Annet
 - 26 Curving
 - 28 Ruler abet
 - 31 Shore sight

Diagramless 21 x 21, By Roger Coburn

- ACROSS
- 1 Caravan and
 - 2 Lagan
 - 3 Both: pref.
 - 4 Malicious it will
 - 5 Violent whisper
 - 6 Wren
 - 7 Author Philip
 - 8 Touching
 - 9 Baron
 - 10 Shells
 - 11 Shakespearean
 - 12 lang
 - 13 Sled of a petala

- DOWN
- 1 Gin source
 - 2 Tombstone sheriff
 - 3 Both: pref.
 - 4 Malicious it will
 - 5 Violent whisper
 - 6 Wren
 - 7 Author Philip
 - 8 Touching
 - 9 Baron
 - 10 Shells
 - 11 Shakespearean
 - 12 lang
 - 13 Sled of a petala



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Old idea: To end a sentence with a preposition is an error up with which I will not put.
2. Heeding her guru, alim ballerina caused a big to-do when she set aside her corpse to do a white mambo.
3. Bowling is good for troubled kids. It keeps them off the streets and puts them away in the alleys.
4. Doctors should now place more emphasis on "wait" reduction.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. C J H K A E J H B I N I I D V K A K I Q S J H N I
E J K Y P V E K A T J U I Y S P K J E I Z P T S U J J T
I K R N H L Z C Z H V K A J B R N S P D Q V Y S T Q J
J H Y S J H N I N.

—By Earl Ireland

2. N T X M R P L G T U A O P T E U P L K T H R I K O X D M
M T H Y E K R O G U Z Z T N I P O K U A P T H E L O
"DOPEY HUGEPUN."

—By Ed Huddleston

3. K E P H U E P H S Z X V H V X P H S Z K Y P H S Z T E V F E
U X V R L S F Y Z E N E P H T D O S R V E P H Y L
P Y Y Z F X V E D X V A O X T P N Y D X V A.

—By Deane H. McGoldy

4. B R M D R U G : H A P P Y F R O L I C : Y P I Y C P
F R O L C P : L I G A F P G D C P P U P M.

—By Frank N. Stein



SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

مكتبة

Features

Jordan, PLO agree on mechanisms for accord

(Continued from page 1)

The details of the mechanism that Jordan and the PLO agreed upon are expected to be formalised in a document signed today by the two sides after consultations with their respective leaderships. The signing is expected to be followed by a press conference and a joint statement will be issued, officials said.

Further details were immediately available.

Questions were raised on the day of the Jan. 7 accord after the PLO signed their agreement in Paris, detailing a series of specific measures and issues which appeared to nar-

row down the PLO's options in dealing with Jordan in various spheres.

At the same time, the Paris accord also gave the Palestinians some symbols of statehood during the five-year interim Palestinian rule envisaged in the occupied territories under the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO agreement.

Those symbols, highly cherished by the Palestinians after 27 years of occupation, had not appeared in the cards when Jordan and the PLO signed their economic agreement in January. And hence the questions over its implementation and the PLO's intentions.

Dr. Anani said the PLO side had responded in a "high spirit

of cooperation and understanding" to the points raised by the Jordanian side.

"It was not enough to agree on the basic principles," Dr. Anani said. "It was necessary that we work out practical steps on the ground so that technical experts and specialists could start work on implementing the agreement."

Describing Jordanian-Palestinian interests as interrelated, Dr. Anani said things had to be "organised in a detailed way so that people and the business sector could take advantage of the chances available on the ground in view of what is going on in the Palestinian ground."

Israel: Handover on May 18

(Continued from page 1)

of the Gaza Strip... and who will be in the hands of the Palestinians and the actual signing of the agreement between Mr. Rabin and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat last week, provided for Israeli troops to remain in certain areas to guard Israeli settlements.

A parliamentary vote is not required by law, but it is customary for such an important agreement. Also, one source said the vote will likely strengthen Mr. Rabin's political hand as approved by more than 60 per cent of the Knesset.

Mr. Rabin told parliament the self-rule deal was the best possible to ensure Israel's security needs.

No accord is perfect, but considering the circumstances

we have gained the best possible accord for our security," he told parliament.

Mr. Rabin said it was "a good accord both for Israel as well as the Palestinians" which had "a good chance of succeeding," adding there were no hidden clauses.

Mr. Rabin also told parliament that 400 Palestinian prisoners had refused to give a written pledge not to use violence against Israelis and to back the self-rule deal. He said they had been kept in Israeli jails.

More than 1,000 prisoners were released last week as part of a deal with the PLO on the 10,000 Palestinians held by Israel.

The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, said Wednesday it had ordered its members imprisoned in Israel or the occupied territories not to sign any pledges to refrain from armed struggle.

"Our movement has taken a decision that its prisoners will not respond to an Israeli condition that their release is linked to the signing of an undertaking not to carry out any 'terrorist' acts but to support the capitulatory Gaza-Jericho accord," Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghoshah said in a statement released in Damascus.

Scuds kill 25

(Continued from page 1)

President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan on the latest developments in Yemen.

He said Aden welcomed an UAE offer to resume mediation.

Jordan, Oman, Egypt and the UAE, tried to broker a settlement to end Yemen's protracted political crisis before it erupted into an all-out civil war last week.

The Organisation of the Islamic Organisation (OIC) said it would send mediation mission to Yemen to urge the country's leaders to end the fighting.

Meanwhile, the exiled former president of South Yemen, Ali Nasser Mohammad, said he had met a northern envoy in Damascus Monday and urged both sides to "return to dialogue, the only way out of the crisis."

Mr. Nasser Mohammad was ousted from Aden in a bloody power struggle in 1986.

Radio stations in the rival strongholds broadcast conflicting claims and accusations of brutality.

Sana'a Radio said northern troops had shot down three southern warplanes and claimed southern forces shelling a hospital in Al Rahidah, just north of the old south-north border and 75 kilometres northwest of Aden.



UNLEASHING THE WINDS OF CHANGE: Thousands of Albanians take part in demonstrations in 1991 before toppling the Communist government that isolated the nation from the rest of the world (File photo)

U.S. courts Albania and some of its neighbours

"Five decades of Stalinist nightmare left Albania's 3 million people struggling to overcome isolation, neglect and a degree of poverty unmatched in Europe. During most of that period, their xenophobic leaders made the United States the chief enemy."

By George Jahn
The Associated Press

GIJADER, Albania — To peasants working the fields near Gjader air base, the sleek, silent U.S. drone aircraft spying on Serbia and Bosnia could have been from outer space.

"They had white, cylindrical bodies, long wings and long, downward-pointing tail fins," Pellumb Elesh said, with awe in his voice. "They flew north, toward Serbia, but oh, so silently we never saw anything like them."

What might sound like a myth told by villagers rooted in the 19th century is fact. U.S. and Albanian sources confirm that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) used Gjader for nearly two months this year to fly unmanned spy missions over Serbia and Bosnia. U.S. planes under NATO command have struck three times this year at Bosnian Serb targets.

Five decades of Stalinist nightmare left Albania's 3 million people struggling to overcome isolation, neglect and a degree of poverty unmatched in Europe. During most of that period, their xenophobic leaders made the United States the chief enemy.

Now, this mountainous nation of decaying cities haphazardly connected by crumbling roads is being kissed awake by the world's most powerful superpower. The Bosnian war and longer-term strategic interests are leading Washington to court Albania and some of its neighbours.

Normally, Gjader is a quiet spot. Shoeless peasants ride

horses bareback over parts of the weed-infested airstrip ride horses bareback over parts of the weed-infested airstrip north of Tirana, sharing it with the occasional MIG-21. The 1958-vintage Soviet fighters, mainstay of the Albanian air force, rarely fly because there is little money for training or spare parts.

In February, the place lived up with the arrival of a "big plane," Mr. Elesh said. It unloaded drones and the reconnaissance flights soon began. They ended just as suddenly in April, with the appearance of a second "big plane" that took the drones away.

Sources confirmed that the aircraft were GNAT-750 Drones that collected data on ground activity with electro-optical sensors. The CIA would not comment on the reports of reconnaissance flights.

Publications dealing with the latest in U.S. aviation say the drones are built of composite materials that make them virtually radar-proof despite a wingspan of more than 10.8 metres. All of former Yugoslavia was well within their 800-km range.

Important as the mission was, Albania could become even more vital to Washington.

Russia and the United States are coordinating policy in former Yugoslavia, with the Russians working on their Slavic kin, the Serbs. But possible Russian expansionism is a long-term worry.

Bob Norman, the U.S. diplomatic representative in neighbouring Macedonia, spoke to the Associated Press

of hopes for an "east-west corridor" across the southern Balkans linking Turkey and Bulgaria to Albania, with outposts on the Adriatic.

In the long term, that could lessen the region's dependence on ports in Greece, where rising nationalism and pro-Serb sympathies have led to worsening relations with some neighbours.

Such plans presuppose political influence. They also require time and money.

On the mountain highway that snakes northeast from Tirana toward the Serbian border, a white-knuckled drive of 200 kms takes more than eight hours over remnants of pavement originally laid by Communist youth brigades in 1947. Railroads and the telephone system are in no better shape, and no Albanian port can take a container ship.

Washington is interested all the same, although the Pentagon denies immediate plans to create a military base in Albania. One diplomat said he knew of U.S. plans for a \$120 million rail project to link Macedonia and Bulgaria.

Interior Minister Ljubomir Frechkovski of Macedonia spoke of "significant" American presence in his country, beyond the more than 500 U.S. soldiers on U.N. duty as a signal to Serbia to stay out.

Hinting at U.S. intelligence

activities, he said: "I'm sure you'll understand if I don't go into details."

In Albania, obvious signs include American village, 11 duplexes built two months ago in an eastern Tirana suburb free of the capital's otherwise endemic garbage and squalor.

The houses, fenced off and under guard, have a look of permanence. Spiro Martopulo, chief engineer on the project, said nine more were planned, which "tells me more Americans are coming here."

High-ranking American visitors in the past six months have included Gen. John Shalikashvili, now U.S. chief of staff, and his successor as supreme commander of NATO, Gen. George Joulwan.

Although the U.S. military team advising the Albanians consists of only three men, people in U.S. military uniforms are a common sight at sidewalk cafes in American villages.

As Mr. Elesh, the peasant, was telling of the spy flights, a helicopter brought the latest important U.S. guest, Gen. Robert C. Oaks, chief of the U.S. air force in Europe.

U.S. Ambassador William Ryerson often sits in on Albanian government meetings and is frequently in the welcoming party for foreign

guests.

In the volatile Balkans, Albanians are mindful they need such strong friends.

Human rights organisations have accused Serbia of persecuting nearly 2 million ethnic Albanians under its rule in Kosovo Province. To the east of Albania is Macedonia, with its own large, increasingly radicalised Albanian minority. There are ethnic, territorial and border disputes with Greece to the south.

Uprisings of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo and Macedonia could set off a new Balkan war, and the Americans are urging the government to encourage moderation on their cross-border brethren.

This angers those who agitate for the annexation of Kosovo and western Macedonia into a "greater Albania" of 7 million people.

"As an Albanian, I cannot be pleased if they want to lessen Balkan tensions through interference," Abdi Baleta, a prominent nationalist, said of the U.S. influence.

Most Albanians seem to welcome the Americans as insulation from a hostile Balkan environment.

Even Luan Hajdaraga, whose Socialist Party was formed from the remnants of the old Stalinist regime, says Albania needs the CIA to help rebuild its intelligence apparatus.

LO reformists gain strength ahead of self-rule

(Continued from page 1)

cho. FIDA officials, however, said that Mr. Abd Rabbo was due to take part in the Palestinian authority provided Mr. Arafat accepted arily defined terms and nocratic basis for the functions of the authority.

According to FIDA, the immediate task is to set up a free Palestinian authority from the constraints imposed on it by the cement. According to the cement, the Palestinian hority cannot take major decisions without approval of the Israeli through a maze of joint committees and subcommittees that will oversee its implementation.

Some argue that it is too late to try to alter role of the Palestinian hority that has been tied by the terms of the cement.

The Palestine People's Party (PPP), which maintains a view, has already named Mr. Arafat that it was participating in the Palestinian authority accord to the conditions outlined the Israeli-Palestinian

at it seems that Mr. Arafat underestimated early a defence by committee ignoring last-minute talks to him not to sign the cement as soon as the

details became known to his colleagues and PLO leaders in the occupied territories.

Both Faisal Husseini, Fatah's leader in the West Bank, and Dr. Saeb Erekat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington bilateral talks, had urged Mr. Arafat not to sign the pact and try to renegotiate some of its terms.

In a lengthy memo to the PLO chairman, Dr. Erekat wrote that the pact aimed "at perpetuating, instead of ending, the occupation."

Mr. Arafat was not able to secure full-fledged support for the accord by his own PLO Executive Committee or the Fatah Central Committee. At a meeting in Tunis on May, Mr. Arafat was said to have not even sought the approval of his colleagues as the issue was presented as a fait accompli.

PLO Executive Committee member Mohammad Zuhdi Nashashibi was particularly outraged by the terms of the economic agreement signed in Paris on April 29.

In an internal memo to the PLO Executive Committee, made available to the Jordan Times, Mr. Nashashibi said that the Paris pact allowed Israel total control over the Palestinian economy through the joint Palestinian-Israeli economic committee. In Mr. Nashashibi's view, by allowing Israel to share, if not to control, economic decision-

making, the pact will obstruct the building of a Palestinian national economy.

Mr. Nashashibi is said to have declined membership in the Palestinian authority.

A senior Fatah Central Committee member, Hani Al Hassan, believes that the Paris economic accord is the most dangerous part of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement.

Mr. Hassan, and his brother, Khaled, who is currently under medical treatment at the Farah centre of the Al Hussein Medical City, are both against the accord and refuse to move to Jericho and Gaza under its terms.

So far Mr. Arafat has failed in talking any of the cofounders of his Fatah movement to join the authority, as head of the PLO Political Department, Farouk Kaddoumi has already refused to be part of the new authority.

The only exception could be Intissar Al Wazir, widow of PLO military leader Khalil Al Wazir, Abu Jihad, who has reluctantly accepted her appointment to the authority.

But if most PLO leaders are mainly reacting to being excluded from the negotiations process, resulting in an agreement they were not party to, Mr. Arafat is not having an easier time with two of his closest partners that continued with the deal all the way through the signing, PLO Executive Committee members Mahmoud Abbas and economic chief Ahmad Qouria.

Both are said to have declined invitations to join the Palestinian authority citing differences with Mr. Arafat over the handling of the Palestine Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR).

Analysts and PLO officials, however, believe that Mr. Arafat will eventually succeed in forming a Palestinian authority. But they say the body will not be a strong one if he failed to recruit credible names with broad following in the occupied territories, especially after losing the support of important leaders like the estranged chief Palestinian negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi.

But many, including opponents of the peace pact, now argue that the only way to contain the damage and to open the way for the emergence of strong nationalist leaders is to ensure that free elections will be held after the setting up of the Palestinian autonomy.

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African bank jamboree soured by funding row

NAIROBI (R) — The annual meeting of the African Development Bank (AFDB) opened under a cloud Wednesday after bank officials and rich Western states failed to agree on new aid for the continent's poorest countries.

The donors are refusing to replenish the bank's soft loan arm, the African Development Fund, until the African countries that control two-thirds of the bank's voting rights agree to a radical overhaul of how the bank operates.

AFDB President Babacar Ndiaye told the meeting in his opening speech that the discussions over the fund had been "engaging and productive."

That belied five days of fruitless talks here so far this week, including a meeting that went on until 0300 local time Wednesday morning, and officials in both camps are pessimistic about the chances of a successful conclusion in Nairobi.

Sources said the donor countries had tabled a resolution calling for specific reforms to be implemented according to a fixed timetable, and would only agree to the replenishment of the fund if the annual meeting passed the resolution.

One African official called this "typical Western arrogance."

"It's like a doctor saying to his patient, I want you to recover quickly, but then goes on to deny the patient the necessary drugs to heal the ailment," he said.

One European delegate said his country's delegates were making tentative plans to stay on this weekend, after the three-day annual meeting

ends, to continue the fund talks.

Even then, the AFDB, which runs the fund jointly with the donors, stands no chance of getting the \$4 to \$5 billion it originally aimed for.

Donors are pleading budgetary problems back home, and the most that is likely to be put on the table is \$2.8 billion, according to one European source.

"The bank will be lucky to set \$2 billion in fresh funding," another donor source said.

The row over the fund has overshadowed what should have been a week of celebration for the bank, not just because it has reached its thirtieth birthday, but because of the transition to majority black rule in South Africa.

Mr. Ndiaye echoed the

sentiments of many delegates when he said Africa was entering "a truly historical period" with Tuesday's inauguration of President Nelson Mandela.

But he also warned that the bank would need even more money to help the new South Africa.

"We look forward to contributing significantly to economic development in South Africa and to enhancing its links with the rest of the continent, for the benefit of all peoples. Clearly this will require the bank being appropriately strengthened," Mr. Ndiaye said.

That, AFDB officials said, was a reminder to both African and non-African shareholders that the bank wanted a capital increase by 1997.

The Western members are

again likely to insist on Mr. Ndiaye running a tighter ship if he wants more money.

They want action on an independent report which said the bank had stressed quantity above quality in its lending, and which found an atmosphere of distrust and uncertainty at the bank's headquarters in Abidjan.

They also want the bank to chase up those countries that have run up arrears on loan payments of more than \$700 million.

Mr. Ndiaye agreed that urgent action was required on this.

"If regional member countries do not resolve to contain their arrears, they risk endangering their own bank's strong standing in international capital markets," he said.



Dealers are busy trading during the Wednesday morning session at a foreign exchange brokerage in Tokyo. The U.S. dollar ended the session at 104.43 yen, jumping 1.25 yen from the previous day finish (AFP photo)

Armenia to tie dram fall to inflation

YEREVAN (R) — Armenia's central bank will use market-oriented techniques to control the dram but hopes the currency will not decline faster than inflation, the bank's governor Bagrat Assatryan said Tuesday.

"The central bank aims to bring the dram's fall in line with inflation by the end of the year by tightening its monetary policy and developing institutions regulating the currency's exchange rate," Mr. Assatryan told Reuters. "But these institutions are underdeveloped... our interbank cur-

rency exchange is only three months old."

Monthly inflation fell below 30 per cent in February from 80 per cent in January, but averaged 40 per cent in March and April. Mr. Assatryan said he expected inflation to fall further in the next months.

"The situation will change in May when inflation is expected to fall to 20 per cent and it continues to decline every month. In July and August inflation should be below 10 per cent," he said.

Armenia, a former Soviet

republic whose economy has effectively been ruined by a six-year-long territorial conflict with neighbouring Azerbaijan, introduced its national dram currency last November.

The land-locked republic has an acute energy crisis because of an embargo by Azerbaijan which has seriously curtailed supplies of gas for heating and power generation.

The currency has plunged from an initial central-bank rate of 14.3 dram per dollar to over 300 drams in May.

The central bank had initially

fixed the dram rate, but then adopted a floating rate and now uses the results of trading on the Armenian interbank currency exchange as its official rate.

The dram traded at 306.7 to the dollar on the exchange on Tuesday. The black market rate is well below that at about 400 drams to the dollar, which Mr. Assatryan said was unrealistic.

"The (black market) rate is too low... the real exchange rate is about 300-310 drams per dollar," he said.

Bundesbank cuts key interest rates

FRANKFURT (AFP) — The Bundesbank decided Wednesday to cut its discount rate from five per cent to 4.5 per cent and its Lombard rate from 6.5 to six per cent, a spokesman said after the bank's fortnightly central bank meeting.

The new rates are effective Friday.

The German central bank last cut its base rates on April 14, when the reduction in both key rates was a quarter of a percentage point.

"This decision takes into account the fact that prospects for (monetary) stability in Germany have improved," the Bundesbank said in a communique.

Inflation was running at an annualised 3.1 per cent in April for western Germany, against 3.2 per cent in March and 3.4 per cent in February, according to definitive figures published Tuesday.

Italy cuts discount rate to 7%

ROME (R) — The Bank of Italy cut its official discount rate to 7.0 per cent from 7.5 per cent, a senior bank official said Wednesday.

The cut will take effect Thursday and follows the decision by the German Bundesbank to lower its official lending rates by half a point.

The last change to the discount rate was on Feb. 18, 1994, when it was cut by half a point.

The bank's fixed-term advances, or Lombard, rate becomes 8.0 per cent from 8.5 per cent.

The decision to cut Italy's lending rates came within hours of tycoon-turned politician Silvio Berlusconi being sworn in as prime minister at the head of the country's 53rd post-war government.

Mahathir attacks West on minimum wage

BEIJING (R) — Malaysia's prime minister accused the West Wednesday of doing everything possible to prevent Asia from catching up with it and praised China for the path it had chosen, even if it might involve bloodshed.

Mahathir Mohamad was addressing an audience of foreign corporate chiefs and top Chinese officials at a major economic seminar at a plush Beijing hotel.

His words, music to the ears of many of his Chinese listeners, were a departure from the other speeches, which were mostly devoted to economic issues.

He said the West wanted East Asian democracies to be weak and unstable like theirs in order to prevent them from competing successfully and that used calls for democracy and human rights in an attempt to do this.

The West's strategy has been to use what he called "sanctioned pronouncements on humanitarian, democratic and environmental issues," he said.

Its newest weapon was a proposal for a worldwide minimum wage, put forward during the final round of negotiations for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), he said.

"They (the West) know that this is the sole competitive advantage of developing countries...they know that, if it is taken away from them, they would be unable to compete. It is obvious that the professed concern about workers' welfare is motivated by selfish interest," he added.

Beijing strongly opposes Western attempts to link trade to non-trade issues such as human rights.

Mr. Mahathir was full of praise for China's mix of economic reform and socialist politics, which it calls, "the socialist market economy."

"It is right because it has managed to avoid the kind of economic and political anarchy that the Soviet Union has suf-

fered," he said.

He said that spreading wealth evenly in a market economy was far more difficult than spreading poverty evenly through a command economy.

"There will be many political problems, not least the demand for greater public participation in the political process. The government will have to give in, fighting rearguard action all along the retreat," he said.

He said South East Asia should welcome a wealthy China, since it could share in the wealth, and that fear of Chinese territorial expansionism was largely the West projecting its own greed and hegemonism onto China.

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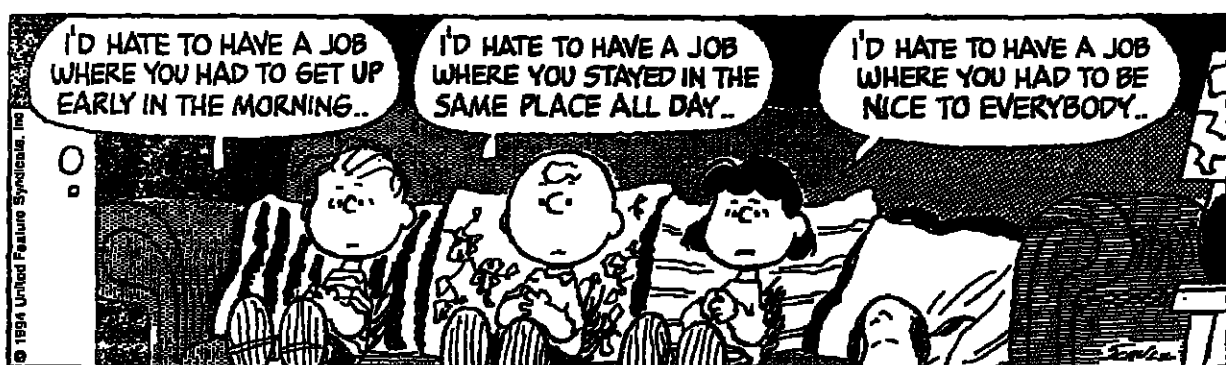
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Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MAY 12, 1994
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You need to be careful that you are not too fixed and determined in your viewpoints today and tonight or you could encounter more trouble than you bargained for. Sideslip a troublemaker.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Go to the right sources for information you need. Take time to visit with friends and relieve tensions you are under to get everything accomplished.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You may find it difficult to handle monetary affairs early in the day but later they work out for you in your favour. Be wise to any situation.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Radical changes may be required to gain your most cherished aims at this time. Be sure to improve your appearance especially to those you meet.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Make a deep study of what is really important in your life and then go after your aims in a positive and forthright manner.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Friends cannot be of much help to you during the day, but can be relied upon in the evening. Much pleasure is yours tonight with loved ones.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Follow rule and regula-

tion that applies to you today and gain the respect of others especially those in authority. Be poised at all times.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Situations may not work out as fast as you would like at this time, but don't force matters, or you could get into trouble with bigwigs.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Compose yourself so that sudden situations today will not throw you for a loop. The evening can be a most happy one for you and mate.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Try to please others as much as possible today and avoid unpleasantness which could come along. Take time to meditate by yourself.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Be careful in the handling of important tasks at this time. Taking risks could bring trouble at this time to you and those around you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't permit anyone to force you into some situation that you know is not right for you. Be poised at all times today for trouble.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Express your fine ability when called upon to do so today and please higher-ups. Come to a fine accord with associates you are around.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MAY 13, 1994
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This Friday the thirteenth is well respected so don't expect too much to go away and don't put off with any activity that is concerned with improving your welfare.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study your position with friends and strive to improve the relationships you have with them. Show that you have poise. Be wary of outsiders.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Conditions in the business world may appear strange now, but later can turn to your benefit. Be more self-assured in your actions today.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't rush into a new interest before making a careful study. Take no risks with your reputation at this time which could be disastrous.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take steps to improve the relationship with loved ones. A new contact can bring many benefits your way which will be positive.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Resolve a problem you have with an associate and cement better relations with this person for the future. Be wary of newcomers.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be sure to finish regular routines before engaging in amusements. An argument with a friend is not serious, so forget it and carry on.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Don't try to be forceful with others or you could regret it later. Don't neglect a worthy friend of long standing you truly respect.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be sure to keep promises made to family members. A new project needs more study before going ahead with it so take whatever time is necessary.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be more objective in dealing with others and get better results. Use extreme caution in motion and avoid possible accidents which could result.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Plan how to save more money instead of spending more than you can afford. Show others you have wisdom to handle any situation which comes along.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A time to be calm and serene while going after a personal aim. Be sure to use your money wisely at all times today and there will be some for later.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) New interests are good for you now, so delve into them without delay. Quietly get things done in a sure and positive manner.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MARRE **DORAH** **INDOWS** **TUGONI**

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THEY WERE **PARADOX**

Yesterday's Jumble: BRAVO VIXEN COOPER MALADY
Answer: What the two physicians were called - A "PARADOX" (PAIR O' DOGS)

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- Mental measurements for short
- Constant
- Harness part
- Carried
- Mean father
- Worm of freckles
- Unlucky one
- Swiss
- Boundary lake
- Sun helmet
- Landing wharf
- Mean goodless
- Hop chest
- Bridge seat
- Deceit
- Sovereignty
- Ethnic group
- Courtesan
- Cupid
- Detection device
- Appear
- Form structure
- Tout's quote
- Topic
- Set
- Military holiday
- Expunge
- Vehicle shouter
- Knights
- Indian
- Rainbow
- Goodies
- Samaki's land
- Baby, to Burns
- Goats
- Worn with
- Whimper
- Bargain
- Ward's boon
- Green parrots
- Endure
- Draft leaders
- Down
- Sally, e.g.
- Paper partition
- Slow mover
- Sheen
- Preminger
- Where to buy marionettes
- One-worlder
- Freight carrier: abbot
- Where to buy argyles
- Assist
- Substance
- Abounding in trees
- Where to buy holesters
- Negative prefix
- Active one
- Washed on
- Nautical world
- News bit
- Far north city
- Course fit
- Biographer
- Representatives
- Luigi
- Kissed town
- Instance
- Miser
- Power org.
- Prenticed
- Can-o-rino-tails' mark
- Actor Alan
- CEO word
- Liquid
- meat
- Snout curves

Britain's trade, industry minister calls for more open Arab markets

LONDON (R) — Britain's Trade and Industry Minister called on Arab states Wednesday to start trading with Israel and to sweep away trade barriers in the Middle East.

"Let there be no mistake, the barriers have to go — whether we are talking about unfair tariffs and protectionism, stifling exchange controls or the Arab boycott of Israel," said Michael Heseltine, in a speech to the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Heseltine said that trade between the European Union (EU) and the Arab World would not grow until barriers were destroyed and unless

trade between Arab countries themselves was boosted by the removal of obstacles.

Negotiations on free trade between the EU and member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) were being hindered by the failure of the GCC to agree on a customs union, he said.

He also urged Middle Eastern governments to move from state-funded industrial programmes to a policy of stimulating private sector investment.

Mr. Heseltine offered British expertise to help with the self-off of nationalised industries. Privatisation, he said, would bring about "significant

improvements in standards of service and levels of investment."

Britain and the European Union would be helping with the economic development of areas under autonomous Palestinian control, as part of the Arab-Israeli peace process and Britain would be giving £70 million (\$104 million) in assistance over the next two years, he said.

Mr. Heseltine said it was of "vital interest" to the European Union to encourage economic growth as one of the ways of countering the rise in Islamic extremism in the Middle East.

Ricoh develops copier that turns pages

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's Ricoh Co. said Wednesday it has developed a copier with an automatic page-turning system for copying books and other bound documents.

Ricoh, a leading maker of office equipment, said the new digital copier can turn pages and copy a wide range of bound documents, including manuals and catalogs, without damaging them.

It said it plans to begin sell-

ing the copier within a year, but hasn't decided on a price.

The system consists of a scanner and a page-turning belt. The document to be copied is placed on its spine on a special tray that is inserted into the copier, the company said.

The scanner and page-turning belt move across the original, scanning the page, and turning it on the return. The belt is charged electrostatically to attract each page.

Ricoh said.

It can turn four letter-size pages a minute — yielding eight copies including both sides of each page.

Ricoh said it may incorporate the page-turning mechanism in other types of office equipment as well.

In recent months, Ricoh also has announced a device that can erase photocopies to save paper and a translating photocopy.

EU airs plan to drain wine lake

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The European Union (EU) announced a plan here Wednesday to drain a 35 million hectolitre (910 million gallon) lake of surplus wine by eliminating subsidised production.

Addressing a press conference, EU Agriculture Commissioner Rene Steichen urged farmers to produce less but better-quality wine.

The plan allows wine-producing countries to choose from a list of options for cutting over-production — paying farmers to produce less wine or cutting back their vineyards, and distilling wine for industrial use.

The proposal to cut average annual wine production from 189 to 154 million hectolitres (from 4.9 billion to four billion gallons) was endorsed by the EU's executive European Commission Wednesday.

But it must still be accepted by a council of EU agricultural ministers and the strongest opposition is expected from the biggest producers — Italy, France and Spain.

Mr. Steichen said wine-makers would face severe income cuts unless they came to terms with one fundamental fact — that wine consumption was dropping by two million hectolitres (52 million gallons) a year as production grew.

He proposes that the EU spend 1.2 billion ECU (\$1.4 billion) a year on programmes to bring supply down to the level of demand. It currently spends 840 million ECU (\$966 million) a year to get rid of excess production.

"It is better to use public money to stop excess production of wine than paying for it," Mr. Steichen said, referring to the commission's current policy of buying up wine that cannot find a market.

But he warned that farmers in countries exceeding their quota of production would in future have to accept extremely low prices for wine destined to be turned into industrial or other alcohols.

U.S. dollar swings up in the local market

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The American dollar shot up in the local market on Wednesday as the greenback strengthened in the international market, and dealers expected the trend to continue.

The official rate set by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) for the day was 700/702 fils (purchase/sell), an increase from Tuesday's 698/700. But as the day's dealings came to a close, the market rate, as quoted by licensed moneychangers, had gone up to 709/711 fils.

At commercial banks which maintain moneychanging departments, the dollar was sold for a base rate of 702 fils, but with the addition of commission and other charges the rate was closer to 707 fils.

Some banks declined to sell dollars altogether, although CBJ regulations bind them to offer foreign exchange to the public as long as it is available with them.

Licensed moneychangers who are free to quote their prices within an acceptable

level of margin from the CBJ set prices said the dollar's rise was fast during the day.

"I have sold dollars at six or seven different rates today," said one young dealer at an exchange in the Gardens Street district of Amman. "I started with 707.5 fils early this morning, and was selling at 708.5 in less than two hours. Now the rate is 710 fils, and I am not sure whether this will be the closing price."

In downtown Amman, where solo small-time operators buy and sell foreign currency in the streets, the rate ranged from 710 fils to 720 fils, but the trend among the dealers was more towards buying than selling.

In general, bankers said there was no scarcity of foreign exchange in the market and CBJ intervention was not in the horizon.

"After all, it is an international strengthening of the dollar against all currencies," said a banker. "Why should the local authorities intervene, particularly that the level of fluctuation is very much within the acceptable margin."

No official comment was

available, but the CBJ, as a rule, does not intervene in the market but keeps a close watch on movement. Officials have said that as long as the difference between the officially set rate and the rate quoted by moneychangers in the open market is limited to be few percentage points there will not be any CBJ intervention.

Dealers said there was a rush for the greenback in the market on Wednesday but not of a nature that the market could not cope with.

"There are many smart speculators who keep a very close eye on the international market, what with CNN and other channels that bring news to your living rooms 24 hours a day," said a senior banking official. "My lines were jammed this morning as early as 10 minutes before official opening hour with people calling me for dollars."

The currency black market which thrived during 1989 and 1990 are virtually non-existent. A few operators here and there do deal in foreign exchange but always under some kind of arrangement with licensed moneychangers for legal cover.

Arabs must produce more light derivatives — oil experts

CAIRO (R) — Arab oil refiners must switch to producing larger quantities of light derivatives to meet the changing pattern of demand, Arab oil experts said Tuesday.

A conference organised by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) said in its final resolutions that such derivatives were either already in short supply or would be in the future, either on the Arab or the international market.

The switch should be at the expense of fuel oil, it added.

The conference also recommended that refineries in the Arab World produce more lub-

ricants. An OAPEC expert told the conference earlier Tuesday that given present plans for refineries Arab countries would soon be unable to meet regional demand for gasoline, kerosene, aviation fuel, asphalt and lubricants.

In the case of gasoline, the regional deficit would reach 7.5 million tonnes a year by the year 2005 and 24 million tonnes a year by the year 2010, Ahmad Hussein Sharib said.

By 2010 the deficit in gasoline would be four million tonnes a year, that in kerosene and aviation fuel 2.5 million tonnes and that in asphalt and lubricants five million, he said.

The Arab energy conference recommended that Arab countries should develop the regional trade in gas and look at the feasibility of building regional gas pipelines.

It criticised Western talk of imposing taxes on fossil fuels, saying the real aim was to increase government revenue at the expense of oil producing countries.

"The conference expressed its fears that these taxes would have negative effects on the world economy as a whole... and would not achieve their declared intention — reducing emissions of carbon dioxide, it said.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New York Close 10/5/94	Tokyo Close 11/5/94
Sterling Pound	1.4887	1.4900
Deutsche Mark	1.6725	1.6725
Swiss Franc	1.4329	1.4320
French Franc	5.7305	5.7425**
Japanese Yen	104.42	104.12
European Currency Unit	1.1520	1.1511**

USD Per SYR
Exchange Opening at 2:00 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTR	3 MTR	6 MTR	12 MTR
U.S. Dollar	4.1300	4.5600	4.9400	5.5600
Sterling Pound	4.8800	5.0000	5.0600	5.6300
Deutsche Mark	5.0600	4.8800	4.8100	4.8100
Swiss Franc	3.7500	3.7500	3.7500	3.7500
French Franc	5.5000	5.3800	5.3800	5.3800
Japanese Yen	2.0000	2.0000	2.1500	2.3100
European Currency Unit	5.7300	5.5300	5.5300	5.5300

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	378.85	7.50	Silver	5.29	0.122

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7000	0.7020
Sterling Pound	1.0426	1.0475
Deutsche Mark	0.4181	0.4202
Swiss Franc	0.4584	0.4905
French Franc	0.1220	0.1226
Japanese Yen	0.6716	0.6750
Dutch Guilder	0.3723	0.3742
Swedish Krona	0.0436	0.0440
Italian Lira	0.0436	0.0440
Belgian Franc	0.0436	0.0440

Per 100

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8400	1.8580
Lebanese Lira	0.040356	0.041785
Saudi Riyal	0.1863	0.1882
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3250	2.3600
Qatari Riyal	0.1890	0.1907
Egyptian Pound	0.1975	0.2250
Omani Riyal	1.7970	1.8200
UAE Dirham	0.1898	0.1907
Greek Drachma	0.2645	0.2985
Cypriot Pound	1.2950	1.3965

Per 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3768/78	Canadian dollar
	1.6716/26	Deutsche marks
	1.8766/76	Dutch guilders
	1.4306/16	Swiss francs
	34.39/43	Belgian francs
	5.7300/50	French francs
	1600.62.1	Italian lire
	104.24/34	Japanese yen
	7.7525/25	Swedish crowns
	7.2530/80	Norwegian crowns
	6.5430/80	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.4896/06	
One ounce of gold	\$378.55/378.95	

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Rwanda rebels move closer to Kigali

KIGALI, Rwanda (Agencies) — Rebels crept closer to taking the capital, attacking overnight and early Wednesday after pounding army defenders with heavy artillery and shelling.

Rebels struck on several fronts, but much of the fighting was centred around a government stronghold beside the airport, where both sides have suffered heavy casualties in the past three days.

U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Jose Ayala Lasso flew into Kigali Wednesday morning for meetings with government and rebel leaders to end the ethnic slaughter between the majority Hutus and minority Tutsis.

An estimated 100,000 to 200,000 people — mostly civilians — have been killed in a month of fighting and massacres in Rwanda, according to the United Nations and aid groups. About 1.3 million people have fled their homes.

The rebels, mostly Tutsis, stepped up their offensive for the capital a week ago and now are attacking the Hutu-led army from several directions.

"There was some heavy early morning gunfire and shelling. It was very overnight," said U.N. spokesman Moutar Gueye.

Demoralised government soldiers have given ground slowly but steadily, and U.N. officials have said the city could fall in a matter of days.

However, the army has responded to rebel bombardments with withering barrages

of their own directed at rebel positions in the city centre. Rebels advanced after pounding army positions, engaging in what appeared to be street fighting.

Rebels also are trying to encircle and cut off army strongholds, especially the Kanombe Camp beside the airport. The fall of the camp would give the rebels control of the airport.

Rebels also are reportedly advancing on the government-held city of Ruhengeri, 70 kilometres (43 miles) north-west of the capital. There is also heavy fighting near Bugasera, 25 kilometres south-east of Kigali.

The war erupted on April 7, a day after the presidents of Rwanda and neighbouring Burundi were killed in a suspicious plane crash in Kigali. The crash prompted a new round of ethnic massacres in the decades-old Hutu-Tutsi feud.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and U.S. Vice President Al Gore discussed the war after the inauguration Tuesday of South African President Nelson Mandela.

After meeting with Mr. Gore, Mr. Mandela endorsed an international military force to restore calm in Rwanda. He did not elaborate. The United Nations has pulled out all but a few hundred observers in Rwanda, but some are pushing for a return.

Canada has invoked a special clause of the U.N. Human Rights Commission to convene an emergency session on

Rwanda to counter atrocities in the central African country.

The emergency session, which would be only the third in the commission's 48-year history, could be held as soon as May 20 if a majority of the member countries approve, said U.N. spokeswoman Therese Gastaut in Geneva.

The United Nations Tuesday proposed a new peacekeeping force for Rwanda of at least 5,500 troops to support relief operations and protect civilians in the country's devastating civil war.

A report to the Security Council said the troops should be able to defend themselves before a ceasefire took hold but not participate in military enforcement actions against warring Rwandese armies and militia.

Meanwhile, doctors' aid organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres called Wednesday for a stronger international response to the killing in Rwanda, including U.N. "security zones" to give refuge to the wounded.

"Given the unprecedented massacres which are ravaging Rwanda, the international community's abandonment of that country is unacceptable and reprehensible," it said in a statement from its Swiss branch.

Medecins Sans Frontieres, one of the few relief organisations still working in Rwanda, said the country had become a "dark patch on the map of Africa" since the United Nations last month pulled out

most of its peacekeepers.

Rebel advances are driving tens of thousands of refugees from Rwanda into neighbouring Burundi where aid workers and diplomats say a tribal time-bomb is set to explode.

They said more than a month of war and massacres, mostly of minority Tutsis by the Hutu-dominated army and extremist militia in Rwanda, had stoked Burundi's already heated tribal divisions.

"Burundi is like a time-bomb waiting to explode," said a senior international aid official in the capital of Bujumbura.

"We (diplomats and foreign officials) are trying through intervening with officials here to stop what happened in Rwanda spilling over into Burundi. But the question is whether the threat of withdrawing aid is still a pressure over Rwanda?"

"I would suppose a government or an army without any money couldn't last long but..."

Diplomats noted U.N. special envoy to Burundi Auld Abdallah warned a week ago the international community would stop all aid to Burundi if civil war broke out or a coup took place.

They added that rivalry, pitting interim Hutu President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya against the Tutsi-dominated armed forces in Burundi, was deepening. Tension was increased by more than 100,000 people who had crossed the border from Rwanda.



Italian Prime Minister-designate Silvio Berlusconi (left) grins as he meets the press following talks with members of his coalition (AFP photo)

Berlusconi sworn in as premier

ROME (Agencies) — Media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi was sworn in as Italy's prime minister Wednesday at the head of a coalition government that has brought the hard right to power for the first time since 1945.

Mr. Berlusconi took the oath of office vowing to uphold Italy's constitution from President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro at the Quirinale Presidential Palace.

Mr. Berlusconi, owner of a \$7 billion a year business empire, smiled as he took the oath, in which he swore to act exclusively in Italy's interests.

He was followed by members of his 25-member cabinet, which includes members of the neo-fascist National Alliance and the federalist Northern League.

Mr. Berlusconi led a conservative "Freedom Alliance" to victory in general elections six weeks ago, just three months after he entered politics.

Mr. Berlusconi has finally put together a government. Now comes the truly hard part: Keeping it together.

Two weeks of difficult negotiations with election allies ended Tuesday when the media magnate unveiled his selections for the 25-seat cabinet, which includes five members of a party that recently grew out of the neo-fascist movement.

Mr. Berlusconi's cabinet, including 25 ministers, was also sworn in Wednesday. There are also two deputy premiers in the government, with one of them also holding a ministry

post.

In addition to the National Alliance, the remaining seats were divided among Mr. Berlusconi's pro-business Forza Italia (Let's Go, Italy) and the Northern League, which seeks to redistribute power from the capital to the provinces.

For the moment the governing trio appeared to have reached a delicate balance in Italy's first conservative government in a half-century.

The latest battle appears to have been won by the Northern League, which was given the powerful Interior Ministry seat and several other important ministries including budget and industry. The coalition partners argued for days over who should get the Interior Ministry, which controls some police and investigative agencies.

"I'm satisfied with the entire team," said the Northern League's leader Umberto Bossi, who only a month ago denounced Mr. Berlusconi as a power-hungry autocrat.

The National Alliance yields less power than the other two election allies but presents the biggest dilemma for Mr. Berlusconi.

The European Parliament and others have warned Italy to keep fascists out of government. Some leftist parties say the National Alliance is a dangerous throwback to dictator Benito Mussolini.

But Mr. Berlusconi insists the National Alliance has broken from his fascists roots

and no longer pushes the anti-foreigner and ultra-nationalistic principles of Mussolini.

"Italy is finally a European and Western democracy in which the people select the parties that represent them," said National Alliance leader Gianfranco Fini, a longtime critic of Italy's old election system that doled out parliament seats by percentage of votes and helped established parties retain power.

The system was mostly abolished before the parliamentary elections in March — the first since kickback scandals destroyed the parties that had ruled Italy since World War II: The Christian Democrats and Socialists.

Among the National Alliance members in the cabinet is the new telecommunications minister, Giuseppe Tatarella, a longtime neo-fascist deputy and a close aide to national alliance leader Gianfranco Fini. Mr. Tatarella also was appointed as one of the two deputy premiers.

Other posts going to the National Alliance were: Transportation, environment, cultural affairs and agriculture — the only cabinet seat going to a woman.

The Interior Ministry post went to the Northern League's No. 2 figure, Roberto Maroni. Disputes over two should get the post dragged out talks for days.

The government still needs to win a confidence vote in parliament Monday.

Poll: Most voters believe Major should quit

LONDON (R) — An opinion poll published Wednesday brought more bad news for British Prime Minister John Major, struggling to keep control of a divided party before next month's European Parliament elections.

The poll said more than half of voters and a quarter of his own Conservative Party believed Mr. Major, battered by a disastrous showing for the party in local elections last week, should resign now without waiting for the June vote.

The survey, conducted by the ICM organisation for the Guardian newspaper, said that if Mr. Major waited for the election, he faced an even more humiliating result which could cost his party more than half of its 32 seats in the parliament — the elected assembly of the European Union.

It said only 27 per cent of those questioned replied that they intended to vote for the conservatives in June, just above the centrist Liberal Democrats' 24 per cent and badly trailing the 44 per cent backing for the main Opposition Labour Party.

The Guardian said a projection of the poll, calculated after interviewing 1,483 adults randomly selected throughout the country, gave Labour 57 of the 87 seats and the Liberal Democrats their first nine seats in the parliament.

The poll said support for Labour had slipped four points since April. But the figures left Mr. Major with an uphill battle to return his party to the electoral strength that has kept it in power for an unbroken 15 years.

Mr. Major's aides have tried to portray the local electoral defeat, in which the Conservatives were pushed into third place by the Liberal Democrats, as a normal mid-term protest vote.

As the recovery strengthens, support for the Conservatives will return, they argue.

Mr. Major himself dismissed speculation about his future on Tuesday, telling parliament he intended to exercise the full five-year mandate he won in the April 1992 general election.

And he faced down anti-Europeans in his party demanding a referendum on EU integration, saying he was as cool to the idea now as he had been during last year's debates on the ratification of the Maastricht Treaty on EU integration.

But his administration remained accident-prone.

A plan to build a £2.5-billion (\$3.74-billion) rail link under central London, described by Mr. Major as visionary, came to a halt when a committee rejected it Tuesday.

A junior government minister was forced to apologise to parliament for misleading it during a debate last week.

IAEA invites N. Korea for talks on nuclear testing

SEOUL (AFP) — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Wednesday invited North Korea to Vienna to discuss details of crucial reactor fuel inspections as all signs suggested a breakthrough on the nuclear standoff might be at hand.

IAEA Director General Hans Blix invited a group of experts from North Korea to discuss details and a timetable for sampling controversial nuclear fuel rods, the agency announced in Vienna.

U.S. officials say a scheduled change of fuel rods could provide enough plutonium to make four or five nuclear bombs.

In a text message to North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Young-Nam, Mr. Blix reaffirmed that it was very important to sample the fuel rods of a five-megawatt reactor in Yongbyon, some 90 kilometres (56 miles) north of Pyongyang, to measure their radioactivity levels.

But the IAEA chief suggested the actual testing of the fuel rods could be carried out "in the second half of this year." South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The Mr. Blix message was an answer to the North Korean foreign minister's proposal Friday that Pyongyang could negotiate with the IAEA over nuclear inspections and the presence of monitors to witness the fuel replacement.

The IAEA has been insisting on not only witnessing the fuel change but also on sampling the used fuel to determine whether the isolated, Stalinist state has diverted fissile material for weapons.

Mr. Blix also proposed that the IAEA send a team of inspectors "in the next few days" to North Korea "on the assumption" that North Korea postpones replacement of the

fuel rods.

IAEA spokesman David Kyd said the inspectors, who already have visas, could leave for North Korea any time from Saturday if the response from Pyongyang was positive.

The Blix message was made public here following unconfirmed South Korean press reports that Washington had agreed to resume high-level talks with North Korea in return for the sampling of the fuel rods at a later date.

The talks would focus on the diplomatic recognition of Pyongyang and possible economic aid by Western countries as well as the cancellation of the U.S.-South Korean joint military exercise, Team Spirit, scheduled in November.

The IAEA also said the team could finish inspecting a radiochemical lab, from which IAEA inspectors were barred by North Koreans last March, and check surveillance equipment at various nuclear facilities.

The Blix proposal also came days before the IAEA director was scheduled to report back to the U.N. Security Council on the progress in talks to resolve the nuclear row.

In April, the Security Council issued a mild statement, framed by China, urging North Korea to accept the IAEA inspections to end the year-long row over its suspected nuclear weapons development programme.

Yonhap News Agency here quoted an unidentified U.S. official as saying that North Korea had apparently delayed the replacement of fuel rods, originally planned to take place a week ago.

Asked about the prospect for the third round of high-level talks, the official said: "We firmly hope that (dialogue on holding the talks) has reached the final phase."

Mitterrand hits back in nuclear tests row

PARIS (AFP) — French President Francois Mitterrand insisted Tuesday that France would not resume nuclear tests during his presidency, hitting back in a row with Prime Minister Edouard Balladur over the issue.

In a television interview on the 13th anniversary of his election, Mr. Mitterrand, a Socialist, charged that as French head of state he had prerogative over diplomatic and foreign policy and could refuse to allow nuclear testing to resume.

The conservative Premier Balladur earlier Tuesday said that "France had never ruled out nuclear tests if they were necessary to its security."

The United States, Britain, Russia and France agreed in 1992 to a moratorium on nuclear tests.

The United States decided in March to extend its moratorium on testing until September 1995. China is the only member of the U.N. Security Council not to have agreed to a moratorium on testing.

Less than a year before the end of his second and final seven-year presidential mandate on May 8, 1995, Mr. Mitterrand threatened to take the issue of nuclear testing to the public if the conservative government insisted on a resumption.

He said he was confident that his successor would not allow any resumption.

Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac, a possible successor to Mr. Mitterrand, has firmly backed the resumption of testing.

Japan Socialists demand early polls

TOKYO (R) — Japan's opposition Socialists, who hold the swing vote in parliament, asked minority Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata Wednesday to call early elections to restore stable government.

"There is a way for a negotiated dissolution (of the lower house)," Socialist Chairman Tomiichi Murayama told a rally.

Another sign that voters may soon be called to sort out the current political mess came from the other main opposition force, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

The LDP, which lost power to Mr. Hata's coalition last year after 38 years, opened a campaign headquarters Wednesday to prepare for early polls.

"We must be ready for anything," LDP President Yoichi Kono told party officials at an opening ceremony. "We must win back our place in government."

The Socialists walked out of Mr. Hata's quarrelsome coalition on April 25, the day he was named prime minister, condemning Japan to minority rule for the first time since 1955.

Together the Socialists and LDP command a majority in

both houses of parliament. They have said they will allow Mr. Hata's government to survive only until passage of the long-delayed state budget, probably in early July.

After that, any party could submit a no-confidence motion against Mr. Hata's and topple his government.

The Socialists and their allies, the Sakigake New Party, hold a crucial 90 swing seats in the 511-member lower house. The LDP holds 206 and Mr. Hata's coalition 182.

If the chamber passed a no-confidence vote, Mr. Hata would face two choices — to call snap general elections or resign.

The snap election option, however, is complicated by the scheduled introduction of single-seat electoral districts, mandated by political reforms laws enacted in January.

A government panel is redrawing Japan's electoral map, a process which its chairman said will take at least a few months. The panel's deadline is Oct. 10.

Many members of parliament believe that calling elections under the current, discredited system of multiple-seat constituencies would be tantamount to nullifying the re-

forms. The multi-seat system was seen as the root cause of rampant corruption because it required candidates to campaign lavishly.

Political commentators say, however, that the Socialists are deeply divided and seen in recent years as a declining force — would benefit from elections under the current system, which favours established parties with a nationwide structure.

To allay fears that multi-seat polls would destroy the long-sought reforms, Mr. Murayama said an agreement for early elections now could include a pledge by all party chiefs to hold a second general election under the new system.

"If there are some who worry about the resurrection (of the multi-seat system), party leaders can agree to hold the next, next election under the single-seat system," he said.

In parliament Wednesday, the opposition tightened the noose around Mr. Hata's weak government by demanding his predecessor appear to testify under oath on shady loans.

Morihiro Hosokawa stepped down as prime minister in April over the personal loan

scandal, but opposition officials said this would not stop them from demanding he testify.

"We must now ask for former Prime Minister Hosokawa and his aide to appear in person over this affair," Koken Nosaka, the Socialists' parliamentary negotiator, told a news conference.

Until they quit the coalition, the Socialists had shielded Mr. Hosokawa from this ignominy. Politicians who lie to parliament under oath can face criminal charges.

The LDP and Communists have already demanded that parliament summon Mr. Hosokawa and his former political treasurer.

The dispute over the loans testimony has frozen the 1994-95 state budget in parliament for two months. The government pushed through a stop-gap budget last month and has said it will now ask parliament for a second one.

It was unclear whether the opposition would boycott budget panel sessions to press its demands for Mr. Hosokawa to testify. But Mr. Hata's minority government, desperate to enact the budget, appeared incapable of sheltering him any further.

Barrymore seeks divorce after 7 weeks

LOS ANGELES (R) — Less than two months after they were married, actress Drew Barrymore filed for divorce from her Welsh-born husband Tuesday, citing "irreconcilable differences." Barrymore, 19, who ironically starred in the 1984 movie *Irreconcilable Differences* about a child who sues her parents for divorce, said the couple owned no joint property and asked that her maiden name be restored.

According to documents filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, the couple separated April 19, less than a month after their wedding. Acting on impulse, Barrymore — the granddaughter of legendary actor John Barrymore — proposed marriage to her boyfriend of six weeks, 31-year-old Jeremy Thomas, as they strolled in a back alley near Hollywood Boulevard at 2 a.m. on March 20. Three hours later, the couple traded vows at a bar.

Thomas owns in Hollywood an offbeat ceremony conducted by a minister hired through a toll-free 24-hour wedding hot line. "People will make jokes. That's a shame," Thomas told People magazine, which plastered the couple on the cover of its April 11 issue proclaiming: "Exclusive: Drew's wedding." Barrymore first gained fame at age seven playing the little sister in the blockbuster movie *E.T.*, the Extraterrestrial. But amid the bright lights of Hollywood, she became a drug abuser at age 12 and a well-publicised graduate of drug rehabilitation at 14.

Barrymore's parents, John and Mia Farrow, divorced in 1977. She was born in 1975 and grew up in Hollywood. She has a younger sister, Lucy, who is also an actress.

Barrymore's father, John, is a well-known actor and producer. He has been married to Mia Farrow since 1991. They have two daughters, Drew and Lucy.

Barrymore's mother, Mia, is also a well-known actress. She has been married to John Farrow since 1991. They have two daughters, Drew and Lucy.

Barrymore's father, John, is a well-known actor and producer. He has been married to Mia Farrow since 1991. They have two daughters, Drew and Lucy.

Clinton reveals a fondness for eagles

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton, whose Secret Service code name is Eagle, revealed the source of his security identification when he said in a speech that he is an avid collector of eagle replicas. "I have for some time been a collector of eagles," Mr. Clinton told a dinner crowd of fire chiefs and emergency service personnel after he was presented with a statuette of an American bald eagle, symbol of the United States. Mr. Clinton, the former governor of Arkansas, added that: "In our state, we did a lot of work trying to preserve the American eagle. And by the time I left office we had the second largest number of eagles than any state in the country. They do symbolise what is best about our country and I will treasure this," he said, admiring the brown-coloured ceramic eagle. "With all the ones I have collected, I think I have none as beautiful as this."

Clinton's fondness for eagles was revealed in a speech he gave at a dinner for fire chiefs and emergency service personnel after he was presented with a statuette of an American bald eagle, symbol of the United States.

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Cowboy Bob's wild west act is dynamite

LONDON (R) — A wild west showman blew himself up when he tried to make blank bullets in his garden shed for a charity cowboy show, an English court was told. Bob Hammon, a member of a wild west group called Rooster's Rangers, turned himself into a human fireball and was doused with a garden hose by his wife, newspapers said Wednesday.

Hammon, 43, spent six weeks in hospital for treatment of burns before appearing with his wife Margaret and another member of Rooster's Rangers in court in Exeter, south-west England, charged with explosives offences. All three pleaded guilty but magistrates gave them conditional discharges after hearing that they had raised thousands of pounds for charity. After the case, Rooster's Rangers announced they were hanging up their guns for good.

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Husband of 4 sisters crows about marital bliss

PORTOVIEJO, Ecuador (AFP) — Ramon Chavez confessed publicly that he is happily married to four sisters who are all pleased with arrangement and the proud father of 23 children. Chavez, 35, was interviewed by Teleamazonas television with his four wives — two of them pregnant — and his children ranging in age from one to 15 grouped closely around him. "I make them all happy and fortunately none of them lack for anything," said Chavez, smiling broadly, though he conceded that he and his wives sometimes must share the same bed. The family of sisters and 23 children who are simultaneously cousins and siblings live together in one house near Portoviejo, capital of Manabí province, some 200 kilometres (120 miles) south-west of Quito.

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Pacers take series opener from Hawks

ATLANTA (R) — Rookie Antonio Davis got the hot hand in the pivotal third quarter to spark the Indiana Pacers to a 96-85 victory over the Atlanta Hawks in the opener of their best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinal playoff series Tuesday.

The Pacers, who swept Orlando in the opening round for their first-ever playoff series win, have won 12 games in a row going back to the regular season.

The top-seeded Hawks, who needed all five games to eliminate Miami in the first round, for the second consecutive series dropped game one to squander the homecourt advantage.

The Pacers trailed 53-47 at halftime when Davis caught fire. He made all six of his field-goal attempts in the third quarter, scoring 12 of his 18 points, to help Indiana take a 79-72 lead entering the final quarter.

The Hawks used a 7-0 run, capped by a short jumper by Danny Manning, to close to 85-83 with 3:15 to go.

But Indiana's Reggie Miller sank two free throws, Davis scored inside and Miller drilled a three-pointer from the left corner for a 92-83 lead with two minutes to play.

Manning finished with 21 points to lead Atlanta, which was outscored by Indiana 48-33.

At Utah, Karl Malone scored six of his 25 points during a decisive third-quarter surge to lead the Jazz past the Denver Nuggets 100-91 in the opener of their Western Conference semifinal.

John Stockton added 17 points and 11 assists for Utah, which beat the San Antonio Spurs in the opening round.

Dikembe Mutombo had 21 points and 19 rebounds to pace the eight-seeded Nuggets, who were coming off a stunning fifth-game upset of the Seattle SuperSonics — the best team in the league this season.

Monaco, safety standards go under scrutiny

MONTE CARLO (R) — The tragic deaths of Ayrton Senna during the San Marino Grand Prix 10 days ago will cast a long shadow across the 52nd running of the Monaco Grand Prix this weekend.

After six wins in seven years, the Brazilian's absence will both leave a void on the track that few drivers can fill and ensure that safety standards go under scrutiny at the world's most famous street circuit.

But for Monaco, it will be nothing new.

The 3.328-kilometre circuit, lined with walls and steel barriers, has always provoked a mixture of delight and controversy because it is overcrowded, narrow, slow, twisting and dangerous.

Yet it also oozes character, charm and style. And it has remained on the calendar, despite complaints about the dangers, because of its history and its ability to generate large sums of commercial revenue.

For the drivers, it is a mixture of pleasure and anxiety.

The lack of space to overtake means it is essential to qualify well, but it also places a great deal of emphasis on precision and rhythm.

"There is no room to make a mistake," said Mika Hakkinen, the McLaren driver who lives in Monaco. "At other circuits, you might brake a bit late or get angry with yourself for going a bit wide around a corner and you think to yourself, 'oh, well, I got it right on the next lap'."

"But at Monaco, there is no room to do that. At Monaco, you have to be right first time — and every time."

If not, the hazards are obvious.

Apart from the dangers of the pit-lane, which the International Motoring Federation (FIA) tackled at its emergency summit meeting in Paris last week, the proximity of the crowd and the sheer narrowness of the track and lack of escape areas are also causes of alarm.

Yet, since the Formula One world championship was inaugurated in 1950, only two drivers have lost their lives after crashing at Monaco, although there have been many spectacular accidents.

Luigi Fagioli died in 1952 after losing control of his car in the tunnel and broadsiding out of it into a stone balustrade. He died from his injuries more than three weeks later.

In 1967, Lorenzo Bandini died three days after being dragged from his blazing and wrecked Ferrari after he had clipped the chicane and overturned as he entered the harbour.

A marshal was also killed in 1962, when Richie Ginther's BRM was involved in a pile-up at the opening corner.

But none of these tragic fatal accidents were as famous or spectacular as that of Alberto Ascari, arguably Italy's greatest driver.

In 1955, Ascari, in a Lancia, lost control of his car at the chicane, plunged through a barrier of straw bales and into the Mediterranean.

Almost incredibly, he survived with only facial injuries, but died four days later while testing for Ferrari at Monza.

These accidents and tragedies are all part of the Monaco folklore and help explain why this weekend thousands of tourists will make their way to the principality for the race.

Some will be drawn by the glamour of the event, others by the ghastly fascination of a sport which has attracted all the wrong headlines in the last 10 days.

But nothing can ever remove the risk of accidents on a tricky track which Brazilian Nelson Piquet, the three times world champion, once compared to "riding a bicycle around in the kitchen."

Jordan International Rally sets off today

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The much awaited start of the Jordan International Rally — the second round of the Middle East Rally Championship — is now only hours away and autosports fans are set for a two-day highly competitive rally in which top competitors will put their skill and patience to test in the 23-stage, 981-kilometre event.

His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Al Hussein will give the start signal at 4 p.m. Thursday as competitors set off from the Roman Amphitheatre in downtown Amman for the first leg of the rally that will take them northwards on asphalt roads for a route of 341 kilometres, including 99 kilometres of 12 special stages testing the command and expertise of even the most seasoned competitors as they drive through forests and groves forming one of the most scenic parts of Jordan.

The first 12 stages pass through Marsa, Masarra, the River, Ras Al Aqra, Sakina and Kufir Khal before regrouping at Jerash Resthouse. Cars then take the reverse direction through Rumeimeen before the first car is due at rally headquarters in Amman at the Fort Grand Hotel at 12.30 a.m. Friday.

The second leg of the rally will set off at 8.30 a.m. Friday morning from the Fort Grand heading southwards for a gruelling 641 kilometre drive encompassing 300 kilometres of 11 special stages that will determine the eventual winner.

The desert stages include Tunaib, Swaga, Hafira, Hasa and Fujee before regrouping at the Petra Forum Hotel at 2 p.m.

Cars will then take the reverse direction through Beidha, Fujee, Hasa, Hafira, Swaga, and Tunaib before completing the rally when the first car is due to arrive at the hotel at 9.15 p.m.

Although this year's rally has been acclaimed as one of the best in years grouping a top line of competitors from Europe and the Middle East, the Kingdom's most prestigious sporting event has been riddled with many incidents and major withdrawals casting a shadow on the highly competitive preliminary entry list.

On Tuesday titleholder and reigning 1993 Middle East champion Sheikh Hamad Al Thani of Qatar announced that he will not start the rally. Other notable entries which have withdrawn are Qatar's Naser Al Attiya, Italy's Franco Corradin, and 1981-82 Jordan Rally champion Michel Saleh of Lebanon.

Other withdrawals include Lebanon's Jean Pierre Nasrallah, and Jordan's Shamoun and Zeid Asfour.

In the absence of Sheikh Hamad, six-time former Middle East champion Mohammad Bin Sulayem and Rashid Bin Ghurab. Bakhshab and Bin Ghurab drove to the Saudi border and tracked the transporter down to make the start of the rally.

The victory team is another top contender for the title and a bid for the 1994 FIA Middle East Championship.

Their triumphant debut was in the Qatar International Rally won by Sheikh Suheil in a Toyota Celica GT 4.

The team is well-equipped with two rally cars, two practice cars, three service vehicles and two management cars. Their two entries will be Sheikh Suheil with co-driver Khalid Malik and Khalifa Al Mutayari with co-driver Dave Nicholson.

Team manager Terry Plant will be aiming to guide Toyota to the Middle East manufacturer's title for the eighth time in 11 years.



Abdullah Bakhshab and B. Willis

sored teams from 10 countries. Their only advantage is a familiarity with the all-asphalt first leg which they tested in the National Rally won by Bashar Bustani March 25.

Jordan's fourth placed Bustani will have car No. 19 with co-driver Malek Hariri in a Ford Sierra Cosworth 4x4.

Tarek Tab'a and Al'a Hadad will be driving an Aleko 2141 S; Mahmoud Komok and Mo'nes Madani will be in a Renault 5 GT Turbo, Hasan Abu Samra and Amjad Shawmleh in a Ford Sierra Cosworth while Ahmad Al Daoud and Ayman Al Hasan will be driving another Renault 5GT Turbo.

Last year only 13 out of an original 36 starters finished the rally which has been hailed as the best of the five round Middle East Rally Championship which also include Qatar, Lebanon, Dubai and Oman rallies.

Competition this year is expected to be quite close with only group A and N homologated cars taking part.

Fully equipped Gulf and European rally crews have been practising for the 23 stage event.

Gulf Oil Team Ford have two strong entries in Ford Escort RS Cosworths. Ireland's Richie Holfeld and Ed Morgan, and Saudi Arabia's Ahmad Al Sabban and Tom Steele.

Both drivers will be competing in the Jordan Rally for the first time, and the asphalt mountain stages will be Al Sabban's only second experience in competitive tarmac driving. However, Al Sabban and Holfeld are hoping to be among front-runners in the rally after a good experience in the Qatar Rally earlier this year where Al Sabban finished second in group N behind Saudi Arabia's Abdullah Bakhshab.

Bakhshab, the current group N production class leader, faced a serious problem before the rally when his car, service vans and transporter were lost in Saudi Arabia, along with spares for Bin Sulayem and Rashid Bin Ghurab. Bakhshab and Bin Ghurab drove to the Saudi border and tracked the transporter down to make the start of the rally.

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Team manager Terry Plant will be aiming to guide Toyota to the Middle East manufacturer's title for the eighth time in 11 years.

"The great thing about the Jordan Rally is the mixture of gravel and tarmac surfaces," says Sheikh Suheil. "Many of the first stages will take place after dark and they will be very tricky."

Other entries include Andreas Tsolufas of Cyprus and the UK's Graham Middleton who will be teaming with Jordan's 1993 co-drivers champion Faisal Sa'doun.

"It's definitely one of the hardest rounds of the Middle East Rally Championship," says Middleton. "I've rallied on tarmac many times and the first leg will definitely suit my car. Some of the stages are superb, and I will be hoping to forge a group N lead during the first leg to take into the desert Friday."

The two ladies teams in the rally come from Lebanon and the United Kingdom.

Hanady Salloum, Lebanon's sportswoman of the year is teaming with Rita Za'rour in a Peugeot 205 GTI 1.9 (see separate story).

The other ladies team is that of Jane Gunningham and Pauline Gullick in a Mazda 323 4WD.

Gunningham, 19, is the youngest competitor in the rally. She finished 10th in the Qatar Rally last month.

One of the most unusual cars on the entry list is the Volvo 242 GT driven by Kuwait-based Lester Feather-

stonehaugh.

"It may be a big car, but it's great fun to drive and it's really enjoyable to be tackling this rally in an unusual car. We know it will be impossible to beat the four wheel drive cars at the finish, but we intend to have a go," he says.

The Jordan Rally's reputation as a highly organised, competitive event has attracted a record number of participants from the UAE, the UK, Saudi Arabia, Cyprus, Lebanon, Kuwait, Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium and Oman. Foreign media covering the rally will play a big role in presenting Jordan to the world as the event will be covered on CNN, LBC, NBC, BBC, Eurosport, and Belgian and Dutch national television.

RACI officials seem very encouraged by the fact that Camel — one of the main sponsors of the World Championship Formula One, will be sponsoring the Jordan Rally in 1994-95. The brand name is now being manufactured in Jordan by the Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette Co. in a joint venture with R.J. Reynolds Tobacco International.

RACI officials are hopeful that the Jordan International Rally will soon form one of the 10 rounds of the World Rally Championship and the interest shown by representatives from the International Automobile Federation (FIA) following up

the development of the Jordan Rally throughout the years is most promising.

"The Jordan International Rally's reputation as the best rally of the Middle East is undisputed. We are looking at the World Championship, which will be the pinnacle of our achievements," RACI Director Derek Ledger noted at a recent press conference.

This year, FIA's Riccardo Cecci of Italy, one of five officials who specialise in the World Championship rallies, is the official of the rally.

For the first time FIA has appointed a technical delegate to a Middle East rally. Jaako Markula of Finland is in charge of technical scrutineering to ensure that all competing cars comply with the standards and regulations required in such an international rally.

The Committee of International Stewards — the body that judges all aspects of the rally and interprets the rules and regulations — is headed by Wilhelm Lyding, president of the German Motor Sports Federation. The committee also includes Christos Kyriakides of Cyprus and FIA Vice President Alec Darrouf of the Automobile and Touring Club of Greece which is responsible for the organising of the Acropolis Rally, one of the major World Championship events.

The rally has not yet been won by a Jordanian. The best result was Nabil Dirani's second place finish in 1981.

The major obstacle for Jordanian drivers has proved to be lack of sponsorship. The Kingdom's 1993 champion Amjad Farrah has announced that he would not be taking part in the international rally for this reason.

Farrah had finished third in the 1993 Jordan Rally behind Mudar Al Assad and Sheikh Hamad.

A welcome gesture was the Fort Grand's announcement that the hotel had undertaken the complete sponsorship of Jordan's Bashar Bustani, while the Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette Company also announced that they would be presenting cash awards to the top three Jordanian participants.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sunday racing gets nod
LONDON (AFP) — Sunday racing is set to be introduced in England and Wales following a vote in parliament for a change in the law. British MPs voted by 290 to 189 to fall into line with other major horse racing nations such as France and Italy, which already allow races on Sunday. Conservative MP James Paice, who instigated the change, predicted there would not be any dramatic change or "sudden surge" in Sunday meetings. In the next two years the British Horse Racing Board would include in its future list a small number of Sundays, he said. "There are 59 race courses in this country. For the vast majority they would not be open on any one Sunday," said Mr. Paice.

Cannes coach heading for PSG
CANNES, France (AFP) — Team coach Luis Fernandez looks to be leaving Cannes for French champions Paris St. Germain (PSG) next season. Fernandez, tipped as one of the favourites to replace Portugal's Artur Jorge as PSG coach, revealed the departure to his players during a training session Tuesday. Sources close to the club said he was bound for the capital side. Fernandez, a former French international and PSG player, has had a fine season with the Riviera club he joined last year. Cannes are on course for replace in the UEFA Cup next season.

Footballer chastised for kissing opponent
MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — The rough, tough world of Australian rules football is agog. Players Russell Prowse was sent off and severely reprimanded for daring to kiss an opponent flush on the lips. Prowse, who plays for Cardross in the Millawa League, thought a fight was developing during last week's match against Bambill. Instead of trading blows, he grabbed Bambill player Scott Cameron by the cheeks and kissed him on the lips. Cameron staggered back in amazement and the potential fight evaporated, but umpire Tony Cox banished Prowse from the field for misconduct. Australian rules football is an ultra-physical sport that combines aspects of Gaelic football, soccer and Rugby. It only is played in Australia.

Budget supports Olympic hopefuls
CANNBERRA (AFP) — The Australian government has announced that it will give \$94.5 million to help train the country's athletes for the 2000 Olympic Games to be hosted by Sydney. The Olympics cash was announced by Treasurer Ralph Willis in his 1994-95 budget speech here Tuesday. Starting with \$20 million in Tuesday's budget, the allocation will rise to \$25 million a year from 1997-98 to the games themselves. The money is in addition to \$52 million the Australian Olympic Committee has pledged to raise to help potential team members get experience in international competition.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAYAN HUSSEINI
1993 TUNISIAN BRIDGE CHAMPION

TAKE THE SURE SET

North-South vulnerable South deals.

NORTH
♠ Void
♥ J 9 8 5
♦ A Q 10 9 8 2
♣ J Q J

EAST
♠ 4 10
♥ Q 10
♦ K J 8
♣ A K 8 7 5 3

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 9 7 5 3
♥ 7 4 3
♦ 7 4 3
♣ 6

The bidding:
South West North East
3♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♠

Our assets are very dear to us and we hate to part with them. But the reason a time when throwing bad money after good is a veritable investment and the suggestion of the Romans, *carpe diem*, becomes particularly appropriate.

Even at this vulnerability the West hand is, at best, a doubtful north-hand overall. If North has a really good hand, it could be expensive. And East will act on the balancing position with any hand that offers some chance of competition.

Against three-grades West led the king of clubs. East followed with the deuce and declared the void. As West, what do you lead next — and why?

Declarer cannot have good trump and substantial value in hearts. If declarer's trump is not solid, the contract is unlikely to make. In either event you will have to secure some tricks in hearts, so a shift to the queen of hearts is clearly indicated.

East signals with the six of hearts as declarer plays the three. A rattle of hearts is raised with the jack and won by partner's king, and declarer follows again when partner continues with the ace of hearts. What do you discard on this trick?

At the table West pitched a low club. After mulling, I thought East would rattle. The discards rule of four, area four counts of trumps with the help of the fortuitous drop of the jack and then claimed the contract when the diamond finesse succeeded.

To make sure I hadn't committed my partner to discard the ace of clubs, I now saw side will score a trump trick, while declarer will be high on his partner's right of hand to act enough to be promoted to the setting task.

Lebanese women crew to get a taste of desert rally

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Car racing, a tough and demanding sport, has almost been exclusively taken by men, especially in the conservative Middle East. But a few women have recently been venturing into the sport and competing with men.

Two of these women are Lebanese Hanady Salloum and Rita Za'rour, who will compete in the Jordan International rally that starts today.

In their fifth participation in a rally since 1991, the two-women crew said the Jordan Rally is their first step towards a wider international participation in the future.

Salloum, a top-notch athlete in Lebanon and sportswoman of the year (1994), will be driving her Peugeot 205 GTI 1.9 for the first time in a desert race.

She said the 23-stage rally is a big challenge for her and her co-pilot, Za'rour, since it is the first time they will experience driving in the desert.

"In my four previous rallies in Lebanon, I only competed on asphalt roads, but in the Jordan Rally I want to cross the desert for the first time, and I want to do it without mistakes," Salloum told the Jordan Times.

She said she adored cars and that she started driving when she was a teenager, pointing that her skill prompted Lebanese racing drivers to recommend her to form a women's rally team.

"My reputation in driving is acknowledged by many in Lebanon, and every one knows I drive well," said Salloum, who works with Lebanese television MTV as a music show host.

The first rally test for the women's Premio Spore team was Al Jabal in Lebanon in 1991, when they earned the 13th place out of 79 cars that participated.

"That was a great accomplishment for us, since it was our first rally participation," she said.

Salloum, who had practised several sports before switching to racing said her family was not enthused about her new sport because "they were afraid I would hurt myself in one of the competitions."

According to Salloum, she is the first woman in Lebanon to take this sport seriously and devote time and effort to it, earning her the woman of the year title.

"It is a hard but challenging sport at the same time. We practise daily for long hours until we are completely worn out," she said.



Lebanese crew Rita Za'rour (right) and Hanady Salloum

Za'rour, who is co-piloting with Salloum for the second time, said that she had fears about racing through desert stages. But after testing the routes and examining the stages in the past four days she said she gained enough confidence and knowledge to go through it.

"It is very important for us to complete the desert stages, because if we do, this means we can participate in any rally in the world," the 27-year-old said.

Za'rour, who is a saleswoman at a department store in Beirut, said she felt privileged to be in the sport of car racing, adding that it is a sport few people can afford.

Salloum said she aims to become a professional race driver and to reach top positions at international rallies. She said she hoped her experience would open the door for more women to participate in future Arab and international rallies.

"I wish that all women in the Middle East would participate in future rallies to prove that the sport is not dominated by men," she said.

The duo said it is too early to predict what position they will accomplish in the Jordan Rally, but said they were determined to compete forcefully and hoped to achieve good results.

TODAY	Cinema	Tel.: 634144	Cinema	Tel.: 699238	Cinema	Tel.: 677420	Cinema	Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Cinema	Tel.: 675571	Cinema	Tel.: 625155
	PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN THEATRE		Nabli Al Mashini Theatre		AHLAN THEATRE	
	FLATLINERS Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays Tom & Jerry at 11 a.m.		Dolph Lundgren & George Segal in JOSHUA TREE "Forced Vengeance" Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD '1' Silence of the Lambs Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' LAMBADI Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		The political comedy play FORBIDDEN FORBIDDEN Every night at 8:30 p.m.		Coming soon Abu Awad in: The new comedy play: "A PUNCTURED BAG" Directed by Ghassan Al Mashini		The political comedy play: "WHAT A PEACE!" (Al Salam Ya Salam) At: 8:30 p.m. For reservations please call 625155	

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cabinet reviews Yemen evacuation

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali on Wednesday chaired the weekly Foreign Ministry meeting and was briefed on efforts exerted by the Jordanian embassy in Sanaa to evacuate Jordanians from strife-torn Yemen. Dr. Majali issued directives concerning the work of the ministry. He said he supports views calling for increasing daily working hours of government departments and making a two-day weekend. Ministry Secretary General Nayef Al Hadid briefed the prime minister on the ministry's plans to purchase buildings to house Jordanian embassies abroad. The premier stressed the need for the ministry to do that in accordance to a well-prepared plan.

Christopher to Middle East at weekend

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher will return to the Middle East this weekend to try to spur Israeli-Syrian peace talks, officials and diplomats said Tuesday. They said Mr. Christopher was likely to travel to Damascus Sunday from Geneva, where he is scheduled to participate Friday in a foreign ministers conference on Bosnia. He will go to Israel, probably Monday evening, and return to Washington Tuesday. U.S. officials did not rule out one other stop in the region. Both U.S. officials and Middle East diplomats played down expectations for the trip. Mr. Christopher, returning from an extensive shuttle in the region only last week, said he had moved Israeli-Syrian peace talks to a new substantive level but he gave no details of the substance of the discussions.

Iran claims Britain bugs London embassy

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani on Wednesday claimed Britain had planted bugs inside Iran's embassy in London, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. There was no immediate British response to the allegation. Mr. Rafsanjani claimed embassy staff found microphones in the building, which was reopened in December, more than 13 years after it was damaged in a raid by British commandos and police that broke a siege by Iranian militants. The two countries broke relations in 1989 after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ordered the killing of British author Salman Rushdie, saying his novel "The Satanic Verses" blasphemed Islam. Ties were restored in September 1990 but the two nations have not exchanged ambassadors. Recently, relations have deteriorated following British allegations of Iranian contacts with the Irish Republican Army.

Aristide opponent sworn in as president

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) — Supreme Court President Emile Jonassaint was sworn in Wednesday as provisional president in a ceremony at the National Assembly. Mr. Jonassaint, 81, was inaugurated in a political move that defies international attempts to reinstate ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. General Raoul Cedras, who led the 1991 coup that ousted Mr. Aristide, attended the ceremony, along with Senator Bernard Sansiquet, leader of the anti-Aristide bloc in the Senate. The U.S. State Department Tuesday condemned the inauguration as an "illegal act by an illegitimate president of an illegitimate state."

Valley comes under Israeli fire

TYRE (AFP) — The Israeli army rained flares and shells on a valley in South Lebanon Wednesday after one of its helicopters dodged a missile attack, security sources said. The helicopter was over-flying Kfarhuna village, a stronghold of Hizbollah guerrillas on the outskirts of Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon when a SAM-7 missile was fired on it, they added. The crew replied by firing two rockets at guerrilla bases, but caused no casualties. The Israeli army then launched a two-hour raid on the Wadi Al Hujair valley, used by the guerrillas to infiltrate the zone, attacking it with flares and more than 40 shells, sources said.

PFLP claims attack on Israeli bus

DAMASCUS (AFP) — The Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) Wednesday said it carried out an attack on an Israeli bus in the occupied West Bank in which three people were wounded. The group, which is opposed to the peace process, said its fighters Tuesday opened fire at a bus carrying Jewish settlers between Ramallah and Nablus. An Israeli military official said three people were wounded in the attack by three gunmen who later fled the scene.

China allows key dissident to leave

NEW YORK (AFP) — China will allow prominent dissident Yu Haodong to leave the country this month to study and lecture at Columbia University in New York, the New York Times said Wednesday, quoting Western diplomats. Mr. Yu, 66, a one-time communist propaganda chief who became a vocal champion of democracy in China, this week received a Chinese passport allowing him to apply for a visa to enter the United States, the Times said, citing unnamed diplomats. Mr. Yu's previous petitions to go abroad were returned by Chinese authorities. Mr. Yu is the former chief editor of the Masses Publishing House, an organ of China's Public Security Bureau. Mr. Yu was not available for comment, but reportedly has purchased an airline ticket to leave China on May 28, the Times said.

4 killed in fire at Beirut gas station

BEIRUT (AP) — A family of three was among four people killed when fuel caught fire and set cars alight near a Beirut filling station Wednesday, police said. They said the fire started as a fuel tanker was emptying gasoline at the filling station in Beirut's seaside Jnah neighbourhood at midday. Some fuel leaked from the tanker's hose as fuel was being pumped into underground tanks at the Coral station, police at the scene said. A lit cigarette or a vehicle's hot muffler may have ignited the gasoline, which flowed into the street leading to the main coastal highway to southern Lebanon, according to police. Among the victims was a woman and her two children who were killed inside their burning car, police said. Witnesses said the father staggered out of the burning Chevrolet Sedan in flames as workers struggled to put out the blaze with fire extinguishers. The victim was in serious condition in hospital.

Iranian deputies urge ban on satellites

TEHRAN (AFP) — A group of Iranian deputies called Wednesday for a ban on satellite programmes in the Islamic republic amid fears that Western culture was invading the country. The deputies, representing the Islamic conservatives in Iran, proposed to the parliament that satellite dishes be removed from rooftops in Tehran and other major cities. According to parliamentary sources, the assembly will soon take up the issue, which has posed a new challenge to the religious and political establishment. Iranian authorities are divided over the issue of the ban.

Palestinian groups hand to PLO returnee list

TUNIS (R) — Two Palestinian groups have handed to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) a list of their members who want to return to the self-rule territories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, PLO sources said on Wednesday. They said the lists were handed to PLO officials in Tunis by Abu Nidal Mselmi from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and Saji Salameh from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). Both groups oppose the PLO's peace deal with Israel. The lists include dozens of names, the sources said.

House to study laws with Senate changes

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament on Wednesday referred to its Law Committee an amended draft law on municipalities for 1994. The amended draft was referred to the House by the Upper House (Senate), which introduced the amendments.

Meeting in the presence of the Cabinet, the House also referred to the Law Committee a draft law on standards and specifications for 1993. The draft was referred to the House also by the Senate to which it introduced amendments.

Later the House endorsed amendments to articles 28, 72 and 80 of a 1994 law on public security.

The amendments were introduced in response to a desire by His Majesty King Hussein and are aimed at improving the living conditions of all personnel of the Jordanian Armed Forces and the public security. The amendments largely benefit the pensioners, who, according to the law, would receive a lump sum of six-month salary as bonus upon the termination of their services.

The House endorsed an amended law for the Jordanian Armed Forces.

The House endorsed an amended law to the civil courts which was also referred back to it by the Senate and approved a French-Jordanian financial protocol for 1994.



KING MEETS PATRIARCH: His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday received at the Royal Court Greek Catholic Patriarch Maximos Hakim of Antioch and Al Orient, who offered his condolences to the King on the passing of the late Queen Zain, the Queen Mother. Present at the audience was Greek Catholic Bishop of Jordan George Al Murr. Following the audience the patriarch expressed appreciation of King Hussein's role in safeguarding the Holy Places in Jerusalem. The patriarch earlier met Dr. Mohammad Bakhit, president of the Al al Baik University and learnt about the new university's programmes and objectives (Petra photo)

Salt to get state university

AMMAN (J.T.) — The educational committee of the Lower House of Parliament has completed a legislation to set up a new university called the "Hashemite University" in Salt which is expected to open its doors at the start of academic year 1994-95. Deputy Prime Minister and Higher Education Minister Saeed Al Tal said Wednesday.

Dr. Tal told reporters that the new university was necessary to help promote vocational and technical training and applied sciences.

"The new state university would be considered as a

turning point in endeavours by promoting applied science education in Jordan and its services would be open to all people and would cater to the needs of the local labour markets," the minister said.

The Hashemite University will serve as an umbrella for various state-run community colleges serving outside the framework of universities and will aim at promoting these colleges academically and technically and upgrade their staff in accordance with the requirements of the needs of the country, he said.

Jordan is in need of technicians and instructors in ap-

plied sciences who can help develop various labour sectors, Dr. Tal said.

Private community colleges would remain financially and administratively independent, but can be linked to and follow the system to be set by the Hashemite University, he said.

The university's curricula would be flexible and catering to the new developments of the labour market and would include training courses for upgrading vocational and technical training, he added.

The university will be governed by a board of trustees.

Israel, PLO reach accord on police

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The nearly 800 Palestinian policemen camped near the King Hussein Bridge will begin their entry to the occupied West Bank town of Jericho on Thursday, four days after the first units arrived there, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said Wednesday.

They said negotiations between PLO and Israeli officials in the occupied territories as well as contacts between the Israeli government and the PLO leadership in Tunis had led to an understanding that the deployment could begin Thursday.

One of the key preconditions, according to reports from occupied Jerusalem and Tunis, is that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat announce his autonomy cabinet which will run the occupied Gaza Strip and Jericho in the initial phase of the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO agreement signed in Washington.

As the first concrete step towards the deployment, several senior officials from the police force, drawn from units of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) based in Jordan and Iraq, entered Jericho on Wednesday to inspect areas designated for the police force to take up positions, the PLO officials said. They returned to the East Bank later in the day.

"We expect the deployment

to begin in earnest on Friday," said a PLO official. "An advance unit of a few officers and men will enter on Thursday, but the actual entry will formally begin 24 hours later."

Brigadier Haj Ismail Jabr, commander-designate of Jericho, said "a platoon of my forces will be allowed into Jericho at an early hour Thursday morning." A platoon composed of 50 men.

"A second batch of approximately 300 men will be allowed into Jericho Thursday afternoon to be followed by nearly 400 men on Friday," Brig. Jabr told the Associated Press.

Brig. Ismail blamed the four-day delay in the entry into Jericho on technical problems — primarily that some of the men did not possess travel documents.

"The main problem was because some of the policemen do not have any travel documents, such as passports or identification cards," he said. He refused to disclose their number or how the problem was solved.

But a security source, quoted by the AP, estimated the number at 100 and said the Kingdom had agreed to provide them with Jordanian passports.

Highly-placed PLO sources described the delay as a tactic by the Israelis. "They want to tell us that nothing has changed by the peace agreement and they are still in control," said one source.

"Keeping the force camped out near the bridge under international media limelight is their way of telling us that they still call the shots," said the source.

Another source speculated that the delay was Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's way of ridiculing Mr. Arafat after the PLO chairman sought a three-week delay in implementing the agreement on modalities of autonomy the two leaders signed in Cairo last week.

Following the signing, Mr. Rabin told a press conference that Mr. Arafat had said that the PLO was not ready yet to take over control of Gaza and Jericho.

The Israeli premier agreed to the request, but in public comments since then he appeared to be hitting at Mr. Arafat for not being ready to take over as soon as the Cairo accord was signed.

According to the PLO sources, Mr. Arafat was humiliated by Mr. Rabin's comments "and wanted to prove that the PLO was indeed a well-organised force which is capable of living up to expectations."

That was why Mr. Arafat ordered the police force to move into the occupied territories early this week, only to be prevented by the Israelis, who cited lack of technical preparations for the actual police deployments.

"The fact of the matter was that there were indeed short-

comings in the preparations," said another PLO source. "But these should have been taken care of in a matter of 24 hours. There was no reason for the Israelis to delay the process so long."

Another report, quoting an Israeli general, said Israel would not allow the police force across the bridge before Mr. Arafat announced his autonomy cabinet.

A token 150-strong police force entered the Gaza Strip on Tuesday across the Rafah border point between Egypt and Israel.

The police force awaiting Israeli clearance at the King Hussein Bridge is made up of 270 officers from the Bader Brigade of the PLA stationed in Jordan and 500 from the Al Aqsa Brigade who arrived from Baghdad on Sunday and joined the Bader unit at the bridge on Monday.

Their arms, mostly Kalashnikovs and sidearms, have already been sent across the bridge for Israeli inspections and registration before being handed back to the police force upon its entry to Jericho.

The men are housed at the pilgrimage station used by Palestinian and Israeli Arabs passing through Jordan to perform the Haj.

Over the past three days, many of the soldiers-turned-police had family visitors, many of whom they have not seen for years since they were stationed in Iraq.

Aziz renews lobbying at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz was beginning a 10-day visit to New York Wednesday in his ongoing campaign to convince Security Council members to lift the oil embargo against Baghdad.

Mr. Aziz was to meet individual council ambassadors and other envoys in private sessions before beginning talks Friday with Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. special commission in charge of dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

He came to New York from Vienna where he has spent two days negotiating with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director Hans Blix on the nuclear segment of a long-term monitoring programme.

The monitoring programme, to ensure Iraq does not reacquire proscribed weapons, is the last major phase before Mr. Ekeus and Mr. Blix can recommend the Security Council consider lifting the oil embargo, which is tied to compliance on weapons.

Iraq was put under stringent sanctions a few days after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. A 1991 Gulf war ceasefire resolution ties exports from Iraq, such as oil, to weapons demands and the import of goods to a host of other requirements.

Mr. Ekeus says he wants to put so-called baseline structures in place for chemical, biological and ballistic weapons after which he plans to test the various programmes for at least six months. Mr. Aziz and other Iraqi officials have been attempting to speed up this trial period.

The Security Council conducts its regular 60-day review on May 17, while Mr. Aziz is still in New York. But members do not expect any action and will not even issue a statement after a dispute last month on what the statement should say.

In July, however, when Mr. Ekeus is expected to finish the first phase of the monitoring programme, discussions within the council are expected to be more heated.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, before his trip to Saudi Arabia last week, reaffirmed that the United States would not lift the embargo for some time to come, regardless of Iraq's action on weapons.

In Baghdad, a senior United Nations weapons expert said Iraq has been stripped of all its poisonous gases.

"I think Iraq has no chemical weapons and chemical agents any more," Jürgen Mihm, chief inspector of a U.N. team charged with scrapping chemical weapons in Iraq, told Reuters on Tuesday.

"All chemical weapons, agents, precursors and all wasted chemicals have been destroyed," Mr. Mihm, a German, said.

Muthana, where Iraq's most advanced chemical production plants were once situated, is now the target of what Mr. Mihm described as a "sweeping operation," to close and seal off the site before handing it over to the Iraqis.

COLUMN

Prince Edward complains to press watchdog

LONDON (R) — Prince Edward has complained to Britain's press watchdog after newspapers published photographs of him kissing his girlfriend. It is the second such complaint by a member of the royal family. The Sun, Daily Mirror, Today and Daily Express newspapers all carried pictures taken with telephoto lenses a week ago featuring the prince, Queen Elizabeth's youngest son and seventh in line to the throne, kissing public relations officer Sophie Rhys Jones. The Press Complaints Commission (PCC) is examining the complaint, which was made through Buckingham Palace on the grounds that using telephoto lenses on private property without consent breached the industry's own code of conduct. Prince Edward took the unprecedented step of writing to newspaper editors last December asking for privacy for him and Ms. Rhys Jones to carry on their lives as normal after the romance became public knowledge. His brother, Prince Andrew, made the first complaint by a member of the royal family to the PCC through Buckingham Palace in 1991 over a picture published in the People showing his daughter running naked in a garden.

Japan princess expecting 2nd child

TOKYO (AP) — The wife of Emperor Akihito's youngest son, Princess Kiko, is expecting her second child, the Imperial Household Agency said in a statement that Princess Kiko, 27, is two months into a pregnancy that has been trouble-free so far. Princess Kiko is a commoner by birth. She married Prince Akihito, second in line to Japan's chrysanthemum throne, in June 1990. She gave birth to their first child, a daughter named Mako, in October 1991. Princess Kiko was a graduate student at Gakushuin University before marrying her former classmate, known then as Prince Aya.

Historians worry about Disney project

WASHINGTON (R) — Prominent historians Wednesday joined the attack on the proposed Disney's America theme park in Virginia near civil war sites. Some 30 historians, banded under a new organisation called "Protect Historic America" said in statements the park will commercialise and endanger the integrity of historically important areas. The Walt Disney Company plans a 3,000-acre theme park depicting periods in American history, a golf course and housing about 35 miles west of Washington near Haymarket, Virginia, an area near Manassas, scene of two famous civil war battles and within an area of other battlefields. "Disney people will do to American history what they have already done to the animal kingdom — sentimentalise it out of recognition," said Shelby Foote, a civil war historian. If we permit the Walt Disney Company to commercialise the area of 16 civil war battlefields in northern Virginia for tourist trade profits, we will forfeit our respect for our past and much of our self-respect as well," says former Yale historian C. Vann Woodward. The project has fervent local support but equally determined opposition from environmentalists and landowners in the area of sprawling farms and villages in sight of the Blue ridge mountains.

Willie Nelson arrested

WACO, Texas (R) — Country singer Willie Nelson was arrested in central Texas on a marijuana possession charge Tuesday after he was found napping in a car, police said. Nelson was found asleep in the back seat of a car parked along a service road off Interstate 35 in Hewitt, a suburb of Waco, police said. When police tapped on the window and asked for identification, he produced a driver's licence, said Sergeant Mike Cooper of the Hewitt Police Department. What appeared to be a hand-rolled marijuana cigarette was in the car's ashtray and Nelson was put under arrest for possession of the drug, police said.

Would-be Rabin heir wins high-profile job

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A young Israeli political maverick, kicked out of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party, has grabbed hold of its traditional power base and positioned himself for a future leadership challenge.

Haim Ramon, 44, quit as health minister just two months ago after Mr. Rabin and the cabinet withdrew their support for his far-reaching health care reform bill.

He was back with a vengeance on Wednesday, the winner of elections for the leader of the Histadrut trade federation, Israel's largest labour union and a symbol of big, bungling bureaucracy.

"Ramon will be able to call the shots. He has made himself the left's most shining new political star and a likely future candidate for prime minister," political reporter Sarah Honig wrote in the Jerusalem Post.

"The biggest loser is Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, whose power base the Histadrut machine has been thus far," she said.

Mr. Ramon, a strong supporter of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord, joined with Mr. Rabin's main government coalition partner, the

left-wing Meretz Party, and the religious Shas party, to form a list for the Histadrut elections.

He pledged to rid the Histadrut of corruption and close the gap between rich and poor.

In February, Mr. Ramon was booed out of Labour after publicly embarrassing Mr. Rabin by making a bitter, nationally broadcast farewell speech as health minister at a party forum attended by the prime minister.

Mr. Rabin said at the time that Mr. Ramon was headed towards the political wilderness. Political commentators agreed he was now firmly back in the spotlight.

While the main issue was ostensibly health reform, Tuesday's vote was more about a transfer of power from elderly immigrant Zionists to a younger generation of more pragmatic native Israelis.

The vote ousted Labour from the leadership of one of the most powerful institutions in Israel.

It also dealt a powerful blow to the party's establishment, dominated by hundreds of entrenched Histadrut functionaries widely seen as holdovers from Israel's socialist beginnings.

Bosnia government on offensive on several fronts

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnia's mainly Muslim government army has stepped up attacks on several fronts, including the strategic Serbian-controlled town of Brcko where it won a major victory Tuesday.

The shelling of downtown Brcko came Tuesday, shortly after UN officials said government troops had deployed mortars and anti-aircraft guns near Sarajevo in violation of a U.N.-imposed heavy arms exclusion zone around the capital.

Fighting between the army and Bosnian Serb troops was also reported Wednesday in the northern town of Tuzla where U.N. officials said four mortar rounds landed in the Muslim part of the city.

Commander David Holloway, a spokesman for the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR), said fighting was also reported about 10 kilometres northeast of Tuzla where U.N. military observers counted 30 detonations.

He said it was unclear if the fighting caused any casualties. In Brcko, meanwhile, though the UNPROFOR did

not say who was responsible for the shelling, its spokesman in Zagreb said there were "very strong indications" that it came from government positions.

UNPROFOR Sarajevo spokesman Eric Chaperon said, "a pregnant woman and two children were killed and 13 others wounded" when 10 mortar shells hit the centre of Brcko on Tuesday shortly after 7:30 p.m. (1730 GMT).

A Zagreb UN spokesman said UN military observers in the north-eastern town saw nine impact points where shells struck in Brcko's downtown area.

The U.N. observers were sent to the town amid fears that Brcko was becoming a new flashpoint in the two-year-old Bosnian war.

On Wednesday morning, three shells slammed into the Muslim-held city of Tuzla, 50 kilometres to the south. A reporter said two artillery shells and a mortar bomb hit the centre of the city designated a U.N.-protected "safe area." No casualties were immediately reported.

The two attacks could trigger a new crisis in the 25-month-old war that has torn

the former Yugoslav republic. Rebel Serbs who enclose Tuzla on two sides have been warned by the United Nations not to bombard the city and five other Muslim enclaves or face bombings by western jets.

Indications that a major battle could take place for the strategic Brcko corridor linking Serb-held lands in Bosnia and Croatia are worrying the U.N., which deployed 32 military observers (UNMOS) in the area this weekend.

The Sava River port of about 25,000 people could be the next focus of the war if Muslims tried to cut the strategic corridor or their Serb foes tried to widen it.

Bosnian Serbs stressed the importance to them of Brcko by holding a session of their parliament here on Tuesday.

Their leader Radovan Karadzic told reporters the shelling was "an attempt to threaten the holding of the parliament and an assassination attempt against the leadership."

Bozo Isailovic, 61, his daughter-in-law Svetlana, 27, who was eight months pregnant and her two-year-old daughter Bozana were killed when a shell hit a window of their apartment.